

# MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE

OF THE

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FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

### ON MILITARY COURTS MARTIAL.

It was long since said, that "laws are like spiders' webs, the large flies break through them, and the small ones only are taken." Admitting that this antique saw is frequently verified in the present age, no one, particularly 'a small fly,' is willing that it should become the universal doctrine, or even that the liability to the introduction of such a principle should have existence. Laws are evidently enacted for some specific purpose:—to protect the weak against the powerful—to restrain the vindictive passions of the oppressive—to afford shelter and redress for the persecuted, and to regulate and govern society in all its distinctions. A community must be depraved indeed, when the true meaning of its laws is departed from, and a construction adopted, such as never was intended nor thought of, to subserve a dishonorable object, or to place the reins of authority in hands unequal to their management, and not entitled to their control. These few abstract remarks arise from the apprehension, that a law, passed in the session of '29—'30, has not received the strict observance which its great importance demands. The old Article of War, part of which the law alluded to repeals, was discovered to be open to many abuses; and to an important military trial which took place upon the spot, may probably be attributed the repeal of this long over-

looked or unheeded liability to abuse in the obnoxious Article of War. Congress, therefore, to avert the danger resolved :

Sec. 1.—“*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That whenever a general officer commanding an army, or a colonel commanding a separate department, shall be the accuser or prosecutor of any officer in the army of the United States under his command, the general court martial for the trial of such officer shall be appointed by the President of the United States.*”

Sec. 2.—“*And be it further enacted. That so much of the 65th Article of the first section of “An Act for establishing rules and articles for the government of the armies of the United States, passed on the 10th April, 1806, as is repugnant hereto, be and the same is hereby repealed.*”

Prior to the substitution of the above, the 65th Article of War authorised, or was supposed to authorise, “any general officer commanding an army, or colonel commanding a separate department, to *appoint* general courts martial whenever necessary.” And such latitude did this article permit, that the general commanding an army, or the colonel commanding a separate department, felt no compunctions in being, at the same time that he was the accuser or prosecutor of any officer, the authority for appointing or detailing the members of the general court martial for his trial—and the authority for confirming or disapproving the sentence of the court, in all cases when it did not extend to his dismissal. All this was sanctioned by the 65th Article of War, and all of it being repugnant to the 1st section of the new law, it is all repealed, or intended to be repealed, by the 2nd section thereof.

By examining closely the law passed in 1829—’30, it will at once be perceived, that it is far from being explicit. The letter of this law may be strictly adhered to, while its spirit is lost; and the liability of officers to persecution and injustice, every possibility to which the late law was intended to preclude, remains in reality the same as before. The word “appoint” is used. Now, to make the letter of the law express its spirit, the 1st section should close: “the *members* of the general court martial for the trial of such officer shall be *designated* by the President of the United States.” This is perfectly clear, and the intended meaning; otherwise the new law is almost a repetition of the 65th Article of War. The President of the United States, it is true, must “appoint” the general court martial for the trial of an officer, whenever a general commanding an army, or a colonel commanding a separate department, is the accuser or prosecutor, and also by the requisitions of the law, that functionary must review and decide upon the proceedings of the court martial; but it is, nevertheless, perfectly compatible for the general commanding an army, or the colonel commanding a separate department, who may be the accuser or prosecutor of the officer, to *designate the members* of the

general court martial, "appointed" by the President. And this very power it is the object of the late law to vest in an impartial and disinterested person. Every one can see the difference between simply appointing a general court martial for an officer's trial—and designating the members of such court martial. In fact, the most dangerous power in the hands of a prosecutor in all cases would be, that of selecting a jury. All juries possess not equal intelligence, nor do all courts martial.

What protection, then, does the law, herein cited at length, afford to those unfortunates who may fall under the displeasure of a general commanding an army, or a colonel commanding a separate department? Previous to the late law, a general officer, when he deemed it expedient, became the accuser of an officer; he designated the members of, or in other words, detailed a general court martial, for his trial, and the proceedings in the case were submitted to the same authority, for his examination, approval or disapproval, and orders.

At present, the course pursued, if not exactly, is in substance as follows:—A report is made by the accusing general through the War Office to the President, that he has filed charges (which he probably offers for examination) against a certain officer, and requests a general court martial may be "appointed" to investigate them. The President through the same channel replies, that, as requested, a general court martial is "appointed" for the trial of the accused officer. And here probably the ceremony ends. Agreeably to the *letter* of the law, the President has "appointed" a general court martial. But has he specified the *names* of the officers of whom the court shall be composed? Has he debarred the accusing officer from every opportunity for exercising prejudice, injustice and the gratification of vindictive feelings? Is the "appointed" court martial fortified at every point against the encroachments of malevolent imbecility, or the perversion of a court of integrity and honor into a machine for the persecution and ruin of the unoffending and helpless? These precautions, it must be observed, are not taken on the part of the President, (Heaven grant they be needless) in merely appointing a general court martial. Nothing further, it would seem, by the letter of the law is required of him; but it must be apparent, that the power of naming the members of a general court martial, in the particular case under consideration still rests with the *accusing* officer, and it has been indulged. And this is an extent of authority which he should not possess, and which it was especially intended by the late law to take from him. The evident meaning to be conveyed by this law, however ill it expresses it, is, that when a general commanding an army, or a colonel commanding a separate department, becomes the accuser or prosecutor of any officer, he shall present the accusations to the Se-

cretary of War, who, under the orders of the President, *designates the members of, and convenes* a general court martial. The proceedings of the court are to be transmitted by the Judge Advocate, direct to the War Office—and the approval or disapproval of the President, and his orders in the case, are to be published to the Army by the Secretary of War, in the same manner that all other important orders are published, which emanate from the President. Any departure from this course is a breach of the spirit of the law of 1829—'30, and a revival of the odious portion of the 65th Article of War, so repugnant to justice, impartiality and delicacy.

Soldiers have but few rights—and these they hold by a very frail tenure. They should, in consequence, be the more dear and invaluable—and the protection of the law should be called upon to defend them from violation and contempt. He who will not defend his individual honor, will not defend his country's; and no one, not even a private, should make a plea before any court, until he is satisfied that it is legally authorized to inquire into the allegations of which he may stand charged; for otherwise he will prove what his judges may not recollect, that,

—— the poor beetle, that we tread upon;  
In corporal sufferance finds a pang as great  
As when a giant dies.

ARISTIDES.

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FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

Extract from a Midshipman's Private Journal.

#### AN EVENTFUL DAY---A TRUE STORY.

It was on the 8th day of July, 1812, (for I remember it well) and about the beginning of our late war with England, that I found myself in the command of a gun boat stationed on one of our southern rivers, notoriously infested with alligators, mosquitoes, and sandflies. On the day above mentioned, I had taken an early dinner, and as was my wont, ordered my boat, (the Captain's Gig) to be in readiness. It may be proper to state that I was then a midshipman, and would pass very well for what sailors call "a green horn," for green enough I was, God knows. From some unknown cause, there had been seen during the morning, asleep, or in motion, an unusual number of our western crocodile, the alligator. Every thing agreeably to my usual order had been prepared for a shooting excursion, and I hastened in the boat preceded by my trusty boat's crew (two



boys) and by old Reuben James, (boatswain's mate.) And who has not heard of Reuben James? But to my story—an almost incessant and uproarious discharge of musketry was soon heard by the good citizens of the good town of W——, off which the aforesaid gun boat was anchored—and which I regret extremely to hear was the cause of many mishaps; but as old Reuben fired twice to my once, his sins are to mine as two to one. To proceed:—Reuben and myself had discharged our muskets so often and with so little effect at the almost impenetrable backs and sides of the many hundred alligators afloat, that I concluded to end it by directing him to steer for a small inlet then in sight, and apparently about a half mile distant. On closing with it, we found a beach of white sand, about one hundred yards in length, covered with shells of various kinds, thickly surrounded by cane brakes and undergrass—the whole opening presenting an area of perhaps an acre.

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The boat's bows struck the beach, and with a boat-hook in hand, I leaped on shore—scarcely had my feet touched the sand, than a single and almost deafening roar was heard, resembling somewhat that of the irritated lion. The tall and thick reeds shook as if by a tornado, and with horrific eyes and open mouth, a tremendous alligator appeared in view, rapidly advancing towards me. What was to be done? I was entire-

\* NOTE BY THE EDITOR:—Reuben James was the sailor who so gallantly stepped forward during the attack upon Tripoli, and saved the late Commodore [then lieutenant] Decatur's life; the incident is thus narrated in the *Naval Temple*. (See pp. 31 and 32.)

“At this moment Captain Decatur was informed that the gun boat commanded by his brother, had engaged and captured a boat belonging to the enemy; but that his brother, as he was stepping on board, was treacherously shot by the Tripolitan commander, who made off with his boat. Captain Decatur immediately pursued the murderer, who was retreating within the lines; having succeeded in coming along side, he boarded with only eleven men. A doubtful contest of twenty minutes ensued. Decatur immediately attacked the Tripolitan commander, who was armed with a spear and cutlass. In parrying the Turk's spear Decatur broke his sword close to the hilt, and received a slight wound in the right arm and breast; but having seized the spear he closed; and after a violent struggle, both fell, Decatur uppermost. The Turk then drew a dagger from his belt; but Decatur caught hold of his arm, drew a pistol from his pocket, and shot him. While they were thus struggling, the crews of both vessels rushed to the assistance of their commanders. And so desperate had the contest round them been, that it was with difficulty Decatur could extricate himself from the killed and wounded that had fallen around him. In this affair, an American manifested the most heroic courage and attachment to his commander. Decatur, in the struggle, was attacked in the rear by a Tripolitan, who had aimed a blow at his head, which must have proved fatal, had not this generous-minded tar, then dangerously wounded and deprived of the use of both his hands rushed between him and the sabre, the stroke of which he received in his head, whereby his skull was fractured. This hero, however, survived, and now receives a pension from his grateful country.”

ly unarmed, for I had let go the boot-hook, and my gun was in the boat—no time, however, was given me for reflection, before the rough voice of old Reuben was heard—"Mind yourself, Sir—side out there, Mr. Z.—give a broad shear, or that there feller will be aboard on you"—and a second had not passed before the sharp report of a musket, and the whizzing of a ball near my ear, were heard in quick succession; and the monster who had nearly approached me, made several desperate plunges, turned on his back and died. The ball had penetrated his skull.

"That was well done, Reuben James!"

"Why yes, Sir, I think as how some of your spars mought ha' been crippled, and mayhap your upper-works carried away, if that damn varmint had run foul on you. But I brought him up with a round-turn—howsomever he's nothing but a marine arter all, seeing-as-how he dont belong eider to the land sarvice or to the sea sarvice, as I can understand, but a small smasm of both. I hopes as how you'll remember me sir, when we get on board sir?"

"I understand you, James; and you shall be supplied with materials enough to splice the main brace\* to your satisfaction!"

Hours passed, and at 6 P. M. I found myself on board my vessel. Reuben James was liberally supplied with what he *most* loved—grog. I felt of course grateful to him for his service of the day, and willingly indulged him. \* \* \* \*

I was seated on the taffrail (for this indulgence is sometimes allowed on board this class of vessels) when—"ere his ha letter for you, sir"—disturbed my meditations. "Ah! when did it come?" "Habout han 'af hour hafter you vent hafter the halligator, sir"—"and who brought it?" "Hi did your honor," was the reply from my cockney steward, whom I had sent on shore, and directed to call at the post office. I received the letter, which I found was franked by the Hon. the Secretary of the Navy, and hastily broke the ominous black seal, but ere I could get a glimpse at its contents—"I think as how, sir, that the pea jacket of that there varmint or sarpint, or whatever colors he may sail under, whose cable I clapped a stopper on somewhere about four bells ago, mought do for sarvice for the hause, or scotchmen for the rigging and backstays, and mayhap for many little odd jobs about the deck." "Keep silence, sir, and go forward," was my reply; and old Reuben, with his usual broad grin, returned to the forecastle. I descended to the cabin and read the portentous letter; my father, to whom I was devotedly attached, had died suddenly.

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\* When an extra allowance of grog is given on board a vessel of war, it is called "splicing the main brace."

Night came on, and with it a calmness and tranquillity unusual in this very busy river; no such tranquillity reigned in my breast, for my feelings were agitated by a thousand conflicting sensations; I could not of course sleep, for there was no soothing balm to invite slumber, and when the bell tolled eight, which announced the hour of midnight, and to me that it was my watch on deck for the next four hours, I had not closed my eyes.——I took the deck; a strong easterly wind had just sprung up, and the tide was ebbing at the rate of two and a half or three knots per hour; the vessel I knew to be securely moored, and having no *active* duty to perform, I paced rapidly fore and aft my very limited walk, the quarter deck, and memory brought before me the early days of my boyhood, and I took a retrospective view of my childish gambols under the wide-spreading trees of the still dear place of my nativity; of the many, many happy hours I had known with him I had just lost, who was the only parent I ever knew; of my friendless and isolated situation at that moment; and I must confess that I gave way to a burst of feeling, bitter, poignant and almost overwhelming. I was but a boy then. \* \* \* \*

With solemn and measured strides a marine performed his tour of duty in the starboard gangway, and another on the fore-castle, whose rough and monotonous voices were heard ever and anon, as the bell tolled the hours of the night, proclaiming "All's well."

At the distance of two cables' length astern, lay gun boat No. 1007, called the Tartar; and astern of her, in nearly a direct line, was moored the Snorter, or 1066. I have neglected to say that my vessel, No. 1067, was *classically* called the Sneez-er; whether the Secretary of the Navy, or the commanding officer of the station, stood *Godfather* in naming these vessels, I was never able to ascertain; but such is the fact.

I had continued my forward and retrograde promenade until about 6 bells, or 3 A. M. and I must confess that the vessel and every thing thereunto belonging were more distant from my thoughts, than probably any thing else in the world, when the thousand and one visionary castles I was building, suddenly vanished as airy nothings, at the sentry's startling and loudly proclaimed "All's well;" and however strange it may appear, they were succeeded by an almost overpowering inclination to sleep; to yield or not to yield was the question. My better genius softly whispered in my ear, "Any officer who shall sleep upon his watch, or negligently perform the duties thereof, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as a court martial may adjudge;" while her abortive sister, to whom I listened (I do confess with much more complacency) in a boisterous tone urged a speedy surrender to the potent god of sleep, whose influence I then so sensibly felt. Which was to be obeyed? In-

clination favored one, and a sense of duty the other ; the argument on both sides was supported with much eloquence and sophistry for some time, much to the annoyance of my shins, or nether limbs, which were occasionally *brought up*, by the combings of a hatch, or a gunslide, in my zigzag, or Virginia fence-like perambulation fore and aft the deck ; it was at length decided that I should continue to stem the tide of inclination, and I resolutely set to work to obey the sentence ; but how long this lasted, or at what precise time my flag was struck, I know not ; indeed, my very existence is to me a blank, until I found myself stretched at full length on the taffrail, and in a birth so comfortable, that I did not feel disposed to *shift it* ; and with truth I can say, that memory can trace my being there to no voluntary act of my own, nor have I any knowledge of any thing that thereafter took place, until I again found myself struggling to regain the surface of the river, after an immersion of, I know not how many fathoms.

I will not attempt to describe my feelings, when puffing and blowing like a porpoise, I found myself some distance astern of the vessel, drifting rapidly down with the tide—the horrid sensations of that moment are however too deeply impressed on my memory ever to be forgotten.

Being a tolerably good swimmer, I exerted my nerves to gain the rudder of the vessel, but soon found the distance momentarily increasing. What was to be done ? To persevere was certain destruction. And I thought of the strong tide, of the head wind then strongly blowing, of my heavy watch coat, from which I could not divest myself—and, oh dreadful ! of the hundreds of terrific alligators, that I knew to be around me, and with whom I had been at war during the day—and I thought of, yes, I thought of that God, whose will is law, and whose breath can save or destroy ; and I believe I prayed. My fall from the taffrail had not even alarmed the sentries, by whose villainous croaking of “All’s well” I had been startled, and had pitched, probably head first into the stream. My presence of mind did not forsake me, and I believe I kept as quiet as most folks would have done under such circumstances. I had already become nearly exhausted by the efforts I had made to gain the object in view, when common sense, in the shape of a protecting angel, whispered softly in my ear : “You struggle in vain ; clothed as you are ’tis folly to contend against this wind and tide ; put your helm up and keep before it, and your chance of safety is *possible* and even probable.” In an instant I was before it, rapidly nearing No. 1007, hurried on by the wind and tide, assisted by my own exertions, which were the more necessary as my watch coat had by this time become completely saturated with water, and I knew it would be impossible for me to bear its weight much longer.



"The morning was dark and gloomy ; poor old No. '7 (peace be to her memory) could be but indistinctly seen, and I shaped my course as directly for her as circumstances would admit ; every moment brought to my ear the appalling sound of some large fish gamboling in the water ; and at every moment I expected a rencontre with some of old Reuben's marines ; and as I very well knew what the result of the action would be to me, I consequently kept a bright look out, and my eyes were slewed from starboard to port, and occasionally astern, as the frightful sounds struck my ear ; and I marked with intense anxiety every rising bubble on the water, expecting the hideous form, glaring eyes, and terrific countenance of an alligator to appear in view. My situation was truly and indescribably alarming ; however, I made the most of it, and continued to *strike out manfully*, until the welcome, aye, very welcome hail, "boat ahoy," was heard from my old friend, old No. '7, to which vessel I had approached within twenty yards, and the sentry on the forecastle had taken me for a canoe paddling towards her. I answered in a feeble voice, "send a boat immediately, for I am nearly exhausted." In an instant all was bustle and confusion on board this good *ship*. I had in the mean time fortunately succeeded in getting hold of the starboard cable, by which she was riding, and with the assistance of running-bow-lines and other ropes thrown from the forecastle, bowsprit, and spritsail-yard, was enabled to get on board unhurt : and never, let me add, did a more fervent, pure, and heartfelt offering of grateful thanks ascend to the throne of the Almighty, than at that moment. \* \* \* \* \*

Nothing could exceed the astonishment of the officers and crew of the Tartar, when they discovered who it was that had visited them, thus unceremoniously, at that unseasonable hour, and in so novel and un-man-of-war-like a style ; suffice it to say, that a stiff glass of hot whiskey punch soon restored me to my proper self, and in about an hour I was again on board my own vessel, snugly moored in my birth.

Why my fall and cries for assistance were not heard or noticed by the sentries, it will be only necessary to say, that the playful splashing and sports of the alligator, and the airy leaps of the sturgeon, are occurrences so common, that they pass unheeded ; and the noise I must have made by my fall, if heard at all, was attributed to the above mentioned cause ; and on my immersion, my voice was too feeble to be heard from the distance the tide had drifted me, more particularly as a strong head wind was at the moment blowing. And thus endeth the events of 24 hours of a midshipman's life.

Y. Z.

FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

## THE FIRST CAMPAIGN OF AN A.D.C.,

No. 3.

The dawn of the 27th of May, 1813, found the American camp wide awake. Whether each one had slept from the time when the hilarity and noise of the preceding night had sunk into silence, to the hour designated in orders for movement, was not enquired; and when all were seen, at the first crepuscule of day, to be in readiness at the tent door, it was taken for granted, that the promptitude arose from the *toujours prêt* of military discipline, rather than from anxious vigils which had banished slumbers, and left it an easy matter to be up betimes. Many were heard to boast of a good night's rest, fitting them for the fatigues of the day, whose sunken eyes and heavy lids, and strong, and often uncontrollable inclination to oscitancy, bespoke a different story. But most of us, perhaps, feeling a mote in our own eyes, did not point out the beam in a brother officer's. We all doubtless were conscious of an inkling to be affected, and those who were not so, refrained only from a belief that it would not deceive. I confess, for myself, (though the best face was put on at the time) that I did not sleep as soundly as usual, and was probably more indebted for the snatch- es of repose which may have fallen to my share, to tired nature, than to any slumbrous propensity. Disguise as we would, the coming day was to bring with it many hazards, and the heart that was then throbbing at the recollection of home with all its endearments, and of friends with all their affection, might suddenly cease to beat; life, that was then clinging to that heart, with every tendril of desire fresh, vigorous and tenacious, might be abruptly torn away; and the earth and skies, so bright and joyous to youthful eyes, might at once be shut out forever in the blindness of death. It was not pusillanimity that led one at such a time, and under the influence of such impressions to elevate the thoughts to that great Being, whose existence, and overruling beneficence, are too often forgotten in youth, or remembered only in seasons of extremity. And if a brooding wakefulness gave place, at any moment, to more refreshing ascendancies, it was after such an humble reference of one's fate into the hands of the God of battles; convinced, with Corporal Trim, that a soldier's prayer, though brief and extemporaneous, might nevertheless be fervent and acceptable.

The rule of old Steuben, of ramrod perpendicularity memory, was that when a white horse could be seen at *point blank* musket shot distance, the reveillee should be beat. When I ventured to part the folds of my tent, and send a furtive glance

abroad, there did not happen to be, as the Baron would seem to have expected, an animal of that kind or color at hand, to determine the application of his rule. The east might have doff'd its robe of black and donn'd its robe of grey, but a dense mist hung on the skirts of the morning, and completely offuscated every sign in the skies. The trees overhanging the encampment were dripping in a most lachrymal manner, sending down great drops on the fly of the tent, as if each leaf had collected a teaspoonful of water before it upset. I returned to my unfinished toilette with feelings that had caught no exhilaration from this sombre survey, and belted on my sword—the last office to be performed within the tent—with a moody deliberation, that sought to fill up as much time as possible with the petty task. This important affair consummated, there remained no excuse for postponing a sally; but I was still lingering within the friendly folds of the convass, where every private feeling could be indulged unseen and inviolate, adjusting a proper countenance and deportment for the occasion, when the spirit-stirring drum, and the ear-piercing fife, and the equally animating bugle, struck up their matin chorus, filling the woods with a thousand cheering echoes, and, sending the blood thro' the veins with a new and lively start, roused every soldierly and ambitious impulse in the bosom, and gave the countenance an air of combativeness and alacrity, that needed no counterfeit.

Every tent had been directed to be left standing, and each one sought the beach with no other incumbrance about him, than the weapons which were to serve his turn in the approaching contest. Sometime before the appointed time, every boat was seen filled with its complement, with only one man remaining ashore at the bow, ready at the word, to "shove off." There were three brigades, and an *advance*—the latter consisting of about one third of a brigade—that formed the embarking force. A regiment of artillery, acting as infantry, which had arrived in the fleet from Sacket's Harbor, was to constitute the rear-guard. The fog lay heavily on the very surface of the Lake, a slight breeze occasionally throwing it into massy convolutions, and giving partial glimpses of the fleet that lay at anchor abreast of the encampment. Our garments, which were adapted rather to a warm day's work, than to a chilly morning, soon became saturated with its cold humidity; and many felt an inclination to shiver and shake, who would freely have indulged it, had there not been an apprehension that the tremor might be attributed more to an inward than an outward cause. All our noses looked blue, but Gaffer Gray's other sign of an ague was carefully suppressed.

In the midst of this preparation and expectation, the commander in chief—an old roman-like, though then an invalid,

looking General—was seen, with his numerous staff, to emerge from the woods, on his way from head quarters, to embark for the fleet, whence he was to superintend the movement. His feeble health did not admit a more immediate participation.—He was an energetic, pell-mell sort of a veteran, with all the self-confidence that distinguished revolutionary services and experience might perhaps justly inspire; and, casting a hasty glance along the line of boats, stuffed with men, and bristling with bayonets, he said, or seemed to say, “that will do;” took a pinch of snuff, stepped on board the commodore’s barge, and disappeared in the fog. The signal for putting off was to be a gun from the flag-ship, which would be discharged as soon as the fleet should be got under weigh. During the interval between the departure of the General and this signal, all those who had stomachs for prog, broke their fast by the most summary process, transferring the contents of their haversacks to the mouth, without the intervention of tables, plates, knives or forks. At last, bang went the big gun, when every boat was seen almost simultaneously to leave the strand, as if the whole line had been set afloat by the loud reverberation. It soon broke off into the divisions previously assigned, the “advance” moving first, and the three brigades in due succession, with an interval of a few hundred yards.

If this movement had been made two or three hundred years B. C. instead of more than eighteen hundred years A. D. we might well have supposed the supernal powers all on our side, every circumstance tallied so exactly with our wishes and designs. Soon after we left the shore, the mists of the morning were lifted up just so as to clear our boats, and leave the hull of the vessels exposed to view. We were thus, by seeing each other, enabled to avoid all confusion in our relative movements, and at the same time were as much concealed from the enemy’s observation, as if we had been approaching in a squadron of diving bells. The breeze was also blowing just as we would have directed it, had it been at our list, and with just such a measure of force as moved the big vessels sufficiently ahead, without agitating the waters so as to disturb the small fry in company,

The distance of the point, where we were to disembark, from our starting place, was about five miles. Had the York magazine stood quietly on its foundation, instead of vaulting, like a ground and lofty tumbler, into the air, and led to an apprehension that the light-house opposite to Fort Niagara might play the same antics in the face of high heaven, no doubt the place of landing would have been in that neighborhood. This awe-inspiring Pharos stood just on the British point of the river’s mouth. The bank running thence about a mile up the Lake, was of comparatively easy ascent, divested of all cover-



ing, being a common, and was under the control of the guns of Fort Niagara. If the enemy had attempted to oppose a landing there, these guns would have soon tripped up his heels, or sent him scampering away. But, no : the magazine of York had been blown up, and—the assertion of deserters to the contrary notwithstanding—the light-house was prepared to perform a similar sumerset, provided our troops were present to witness it.

As we passed the mouth of the river, the fog, having been gradually rising, was then so much above the surface of the waters, as to exhibit this lofty scarecrow and its adjacent bank to view. Many were of opinion that it was not too late, even then, to make this the avenue of attack, incurring the hazard of an improbable accident, for the gain of many certain advantages. But some of the Yorkers shrugged up their shoulders at this suggestion, as if they were again preparing for a shower of brick-bats and stones. Besides the order to eschew it had gone forth, and was of a Mede and Persian unchangeableness. Onwards we moved, still accompanied by the fleet, the fog now rapidly withdrawing its veil from our course ; and about the time we were abreast of the point intended for disembarkation, the breeze, which had freshened, drove it upwards among the sun-beams, and soon dissolved it into thin air. Every thing then stood revealed under the broad light of day ; and the enemy, if he were not before apprised of our intentions, had them now in clear development before him. The fleet dropped anchor about two miles from the shore, the several squadrons of boats being considerably nearer, while two armed schooners had already taken a position still nearer, so as to enfilade a battery that stood on the bank where the landing was to be made. The boats were directed to lay on their oars, until the schooners should dismount or disable the piece that peered over this battery in the most threatening manner.

During this interval, we all had an opportunity of taking a leisurely view of that shore, on which we were soon to precipitate ourselves, for better or for worse. A mile or so from the redoubtable light-house, the bank became more elevated and abrupt ; and was covered, almost to the brink, with a dense growth of small trees. This bank was about forty feet high, and so steep, that its ascent would have been deemed pretty hard scrabbling, even if no enemy were on the top ready to shoot you down. Every eye was fixed intently on this spot, to see what show of defence might be there ; for, although we had stolen a march on the enemy under the fog, yet we had little expectation that he would be caught so napping, as to permit us to walk into his jurisdiction, without being met at the threshold. But the whole scene, (excepting the little battery) looked so quiet and inoffensive, that some of us began to think we had

mistaken our route in the fog, and got back to our own shore. The scarlet coat is not easily disguised, and if one had been visible, our eager eyes would have detected it. At last, those who were not in the belief that we labored under some mistake, came to the comfortable conclusion, that, either because we had come unawares, or for some other reason best known to the enemy, we were not to be shot at in the boats, where the men stood like so many stalks bound up in a sheaf, presenting, as it were, a solid mass of flesh and blood, that nobody would miss, who could hit a barn door.

All speculations, however, on this point were soon interrupted by a flash of light from the battery, which sent a ball ricocheting over one of the schooners, with some menace of continuing its leap-frogs until it should reach the advance. Luckily, however, it gravitated to a watery grave far short. This was the opening of the drama of the day. The compliment was soon returned by the schooners, whose long toms being trained so as to cross their lines of fire just behind and over the battery, threw in a brace of spherules, which, intersecting each other at the battery, furrowed and tore things pretty much to pieces there, and then bounding off through the woods in opposite directions, felled more branches in a few moments, than a good axeman could lop off in as many days. These shots reduced the little battery to neutrality and silence for the rest of the day.

In order to effect this service, the schooners had been gallantly anchored so near the shore, as to be within imminent reach of any means of annoyance or destruction the enemy might have arranged there. While their positions were being taken, and during all the subsequent firing, a small boat was seen plying between them, which we afterwards found out was the tiny flag-ship of the officer who had the immediate charge of these detached vessels. The speedy capitulation of the battery piece, and the absence of all other apparent offensiveness on shore, luckily rendered this service less perilous than it seemed to be in the eyes of all spectators, who unanimously regarded this spirited little wherry with the highest interest and admiration; far from conjecturing that it bore the future Hero of Lake Erie, who, in this early challenge of the hazards of the deep, gave an earnest of that novel enterprize and daring, which marked his subsequent victory, otherwise eminently brilliant, with a romantic and knight-errant-like incident, that will make it remembered when triumphs of greater magnitude are almost forgotten.

As soon as it was seen that the battery piece had been rendered harmless, the signal was given for the boats to advance, preserving their prescribed relative order and distances. The "advance," which, during this suspension of movement, had

paused like a restive steed, impatient of the curb, being released by this signal, was at once seen to shoot ahead, dashing up the spray, as if the contest were an inspiring regatta, rather than a rushing into the jaws of an enemy. Hovering on the flank of this body, was seen an expletive sort of a squadron, which by its somewhat irregular and independent movements, the most uninitiated must have guessed to be a volunteer corps. Though deserving much credit for the motive which led it to the frontiers, and for the sacrifices consequently made, yet it had but a scant portion awarded to it, being regarded as a "fifth wheel" kind of troops, that might move when and where and how they pleased, without either accelerating or retarding the main body by their supernumerary accompaniment. In the wake of the advance, at a few hundred yards distance, followed the first brigade; the second and third and the reserve coming on in due succession. Why the forces were made to tread on each other's heels in this manner, giving the enemy a chance of repulsing us in detail, and a certainty of making every shot tell, as that which missed one squadron would be almost sure of a hit at its follower; instead of throwing the whole line, excepting the advance and the reserve, ashore at the same time, thus distracting, by necessarily extending the defence; the young wiseacres were left to guess. The enemy must have chuckled among the bushes to see us thus approaching one after another, like the segregated Curiatii, ready to be knocked down in succession. There is but one way of accounting for this apparent conformity with what may be supposed to have been the wishes of the enemy—this accommodation of our plans to what would doubtless have been his suggestions had he been consulted, and allowed to regulate them. The landing could not be made further up the Lake, as a dense forest would meet us there; and it could not incline further to the left, as that would tempt the light-house, standing as it were at half-cock, to discharge itself on our heads. Ulysses, by avoiding both Scylla and Charybdis, could steer clear; but we, while eschewing two evils, were likely to encounter a third, more formidable than either.

The rowers of the boats were of course obliged to turn their backs on the danger we were approaching; but all others had their faces directed towards the hostile shore, watching with eyes that almost started out of their sockets with eagerness, the woody line that ran along its crest, to catch the first glimpse of the force that was expected to oppose our landing. While however, the boats were without the line of the two schooners' anchorage, such troops as might be in the neighborhood for that purpose, were fain to keep out of sight, as the long toms of those vessels were pouring into their supposed shelter, showers of grape and canister and round shot, that would have se-



verely peppered such heads as dared to show themselves. But this storm was soon necessarily checked mid volley, as the advance shortly passed between the schooners and the shore.— Every eye was now involuntarily fixed on this squadron, which was swept by a few more strokes of the oar within point blank shot of that shore; when, in a twinkling as it were, and as if raised, like Cadmus' army, from the ground, a line of soldiers, made instantly conspicuous by the glowing scarlet of the British uniform, was exhibited along the whole crest of the bank. This formidable array seemed to hang for a few minutes in silence over its prey, as if contemplating the boldness of its approach, or to permit it to draw nearer to the destruction, that could only be the more sure by being a little delayed. This breathless pause was soon terminated by a volley, that lighted up the whole bank in a transient flame.

At this critical moment the music, which had been collected pretty much in one boat, and suffered, like non-combatants, to fall somewhat out of the way, being near the volunteers, were, perhaps at the suggestion of these stage-effect loving militants, playing Yankee Doodle in the most animated and animating manner. This sudden and discordant outbreak from the enemy, rather interrupted the harmony, and gave it a dying strain, and the first bullet that whistled in that quarter hushed it into silence.

We, who were in the first brigade, expected that the advance had been destroyed to a man, and were as much surprised as rejoiced to see it moving onward towards the shore with a velocity that had been rather increased than diminished by the volley it had received. As soon as the cloud of smoke, which momentarily obscured the bank, had been wafted off by the breeze, the enemy was seen cracking away at this intrepid band, with all the deliberation of duck-shooters, while not a shot was returned. Indeed, such a thing was not only contrary to orders, but nearly impossible. There was so little elbow-room on board the boats, that the soldier who attempted to fire, could have aimed at nothing but the zenith. The chance was on shore alone, and urgently did they make for it. A few strokes more, and each bow struck the beach.

The advance was led by a gallant officer, who at once showed the way up the bank, without pausing to calculate that he would in all probability have to show the way down again. A new volley, that almost scorched the whiskers of the men, quickly produced this result. How long these ups and downs continued, ere a lodgment was made on the top, we of the following brigade, had not the leisure to observe; as, pursuing closely our worthy exemplars, we were soon too much within the vortex of danger ourselves, to be indulging a curiosity about others.



The staff of this brigade had been embarked in a small skiff, which, although larger and stronger than the bowl, whose fragility abbreviated the story of the three navigators commemorated by mother Goose, yet it had doubtless never been intended to bear such a respectable burden as was now embarked within its frail ribs. A stout and martial looking soldier, who had reported at early dawn as an orderly, was perched up in the bow, forming a fine figure head, but out of all proportion with the vessel; while I was mounted on its pinck-stern, with a paddle in hand instead of a tiller, an awkward Palinurus, but much more wide awake than that luckless helmsman. We were made sensible of an approximation towards the business of the day, by the flight of an occasional bullet, which, having missed all preceding objects, was humming lazily along into our neighborhood, fast losing its initial velocity, and having little more force than if it had been sent by a sling. This projectile music was entirely new to many of us, and had at least all the charms of novelty. Few of us were inclined to say with the Swedish Charles, in the words of the song, "repeat, repeat that strain again," or that it should be the habitual serenade of life; but most, like the listeners of less perilous concerts, who, where it is the fashion to be pleased, assume a look of approbation, even if indifferent or wishing for an alibi, affected to lend an ear, that could relish and appreciate such sounds.

When the shower became more brisk, and the waters around us bubbled with the falling missiles as if a sparse hail storm were descending, the oarsmen, most naturally anxious to look around now and then, and see if their backs were in danger—that part which a soldier would protect from wounds like the apple of his eye—often pulled irregularly, and made the steersman's task no sinecure. As I was observing one of them, whose retrospections had given the skiff an oblique bearing, and was about to chide him into his duty, a sudden quiver and contraction of every muscle of his face, showed that fate had marked him as one of the victims of the day. The oar was about to escape from his hands, and fall alongside, when he quickly seized it again, and struck away with redoubled energy, remarking that it was only a wound in the thigh, and that he could row while his arms were whole. I had scarcely time to pay him, even in thought, that tribute of commendation, which his self-possession and contempt of a severe wound entitled him to, ere every feeling was brought home to the narrow sphere of self, by a smart slap on my side, just where the sword-belt and sash were swathed around the waist. The first thought was, that one of the oars had been inadvertently hurled against me, and, dropping my paddle, I pressed both hands against the afflicted part, as if seized with a sudden fit of the cholic. The second thought was, (for, let it be remarked, that

when a bullet strikes one, it is not known whether it has glanced off or entered in, until the blood appears to decide the question) that I was a dead man; that the ball had taken a short cut into my abdomen, two or three respirations being entirely suspended, or but imperfectly performed. The third thought was, that I was not as much hurt as the bleeding oarsman before me, and should be ashamed not to follow his spirited example. These several thoughts did not occupy much time, as, agreeably to the last thought, I resumed my paddle before it had rolled off the pinck-stern into the water, and set the skiff again on its direct track for the shore, towards which the brigade was now being urged with increasing haste, with the double view of getting under the shelter of the bank, and of reinforcing the advance, which we had last seen hard set at the landing.

It was not many minutes before we attained this shelter.— Just as we were passing into it, and hearing the last whip cracking sound of the bullets which could reach our heads, and while I was steering, with much ado, our tiny craft among the larger boats, so as to reach the beach without being crushed in the *melée*, with my eye involuntarily fixed on the orderly in the bow, who was looking out ahead, I saw him give a convulsive start, and then plunge headlong into the water; having, perhaps, been hit by the last shot that reached our boat as we left the line of fire. It was no time for sympathy or delay, and we passed over his body, which sunk without a struggle, as if it had been a stone thrown overboard. The day, eventful as it was, had no disaster that affected my mind like the mishap of this noble looking orderly. I had never seen him before that morning—he was a Yorker—but having had his fine figure, from his position, in my eye during the whole of the transit, and remarked that, throughout the perils of the approach to the shore, he had maintained a most soldierly bearing, I had conceived an extemporary interest in him, that made my heart shrink when I saw him precipitated into the Lake never to rise again. But this mood was at once lost in the animation of the landing, though well nigh being revived by the appearance of a livid corpse, lying with its head downward the bank, as if the soldier had been suddenly reversed by a mortal wound, during the ascent, and so near the water, that my foot, in a hurried leap, was almost planted on its still slightly heaving breast.

Though every boat had preserved its proper place in the line until the signal for advancing towards the shore, and was doubtless resolutely bent on not being jostled out of it to the last, yet, when the enemy's fire began to make sad work among the huddled crews, and oarsmen, disabled or killed, were frequently to be replaced, considerable dislocation occurred; and when the squadrons struck the shore, and the men were disembark-

ed, there was much shifting and countermarching to be done, before the regiments were in due order for the ascent. This, however was done with all the promptitude of habitual discipline. Each soldier, knowing his right and left hand man, could easily have fallen into his proper place, had not many a file been missing, left dying or dead in the boats. Among the missing, too, were some officers, whose word of command, silenced for a time or forever, would have assisted in the emergency.

When the line had been arranged with tolerable precision, (for it was not a time to be very particular,) and the order to ascend was given, each one, officer and soldier, after casting upwards a hasty glance, as if to ascertain the amount of exertion required, and, mayhap, to see if any bayonets were bristling there—took in a long breath, and more like quadrupeds than bipeds, as the arms were obliged to lend the legs a hand in the scrabble, began the ascent. Some of the regiments, when they had reached the crest near enough to aim over it, halted, and as it were behind a breast-work, poured in a volley among the trees, which were as red with the enemy, as if a fire were spreading through the underbrush. The compliment was returned almost simultaneously, as the heads no sooner peered above the bank, than every tree seemed to be in a blaze. The footing of most of them was too insecure to stand such a racket. Some fell right backwards, under the paralysis of a mortal wound, and nearly all, whether hit or not, staggered a moment under the burning cataract, and then gave way, at least so far as to bring the bank as a parapet between them and the enemy. But one regiment, a Yorker, marched up and over the bank with an unflinching steadiness, halting just on the top, and volleying it away into the bushes, until the others, animated by so spirited an example, came up and completed the line. The whole moved forward to the skirt of the wood, presenting a formidable front, that would, no doubt, have induced the enemy to decamp, had not other causes led him to think of his safety in due season.

The volunteers, to whom we have before alluded, when the leaden shower pattered so hail-like on the advance and first brigade, prudently sidled a little to the right, thus saving many a valuable life, and being able to land, nearly all-told and fit for duty, on the enemy's left flank. The discretion evinced in this oblique movement, was far more serviceable than the valor that might have prompted to a more direct advance. The patriotic and brave Hibernian who led them, would have been the last man to turn out for a bullet, had not generalship been the motive. Seeing the British likely to be well enough occupied in the front, even if his volunteers were not there, and shrewdly suspecting that in their anxiety to protect the nose

from a tweak, they might leave the ear exposed, he resolved to give them a box in that quarter. A pretty dense woods was growing there, which he gained without opposition. The music with him, which was considerable, struck up, in order to finish, more at ease, that strain of Yankee Doodle which had been interrupted on the water; while, at the same time, a few shots were let off by way of accompaniment. The red coats, unable to determine the extent of this lateral irruption, and fearing their retreat might be cut off—looking to the front and listening to the flank—wisely resolved to scamper while scampering was feasible. We were thus left, about noon, in full and quiet possession of the landing.

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FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

**THE MIDSHIPMAN'S RETURN.**

Away, away! for my native hills,  
The fruits, the flowers, and the berries ripe;  
The woods, the lakes, and the sparkling rills,  
The rocks, the vines, and the splashing mills,—  
Far from the sound of the boatswain's pipe.

Hurrah! good driver, crack up your team!  
I long to leave the sight of the sea,  
With its ships, and its silvery gleam,  
To roam on the banks of my native stream,  
As gay and free as I used to be.

Away! lash on the trunks, Mr. Whip,  
For there I've shells and curious things,  
For which, unless you allow them to slip,  
I'll have a kiss from a rosy lip,  
More dewy than the morning's wings.

Hurrah! no more mast-headings to cry,  
When on the watch, for falling asleep;—  
From boats, and ropes, and angles I fly,  
From lunars and trigonometry—  
Hurrah! and no more watches to keep!

No more to be scared by dread First Luff,  
Or Captain's threats for wrong "day's work"—  
For log-book blots; or any such stuff;  
No more to dine upon beef and "duff,"  
Or water to eat with a fork!

Good bye, Billy! our anchor's aweigh,  
Billy, the noblest and best mess-mate!  
The driver whips, as he wheels me away,  
Snap, crack! as if the deuce was to pay,  
And on our speed depended the state.

Hurrah! for the sweet breathing grove,  
The bowl of milk, and the strawberry feast,  
The friends at home, and the maiden I love;  
Long shall it be e'er again I rove;  
On shore I'll remain—for three weeks at least!

VINCENNES.



FROM THE AMERICAN QUARTERLY REVIEW,

For June, 1833.

## ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES.

*Documents communicated to Congress by the President, at the opening of the Second Session of the twenty-second Congress, accompanying the Report of the Secretary of War.*

These documents exhibit our military establishment in all its important details. A similar exhibition is made at the opening of each session of Congress, combining reports from each military department, and the letter of the Secretary of War to the President, presenting a general view of the past, and such suggestions as arise from a consideration of the future.—Perhaps there is no institution connected with our government, that more properly demands this annual review. A military establishment is justly regarded by republics with jealous watchfulness. Our own experience has doubtless much allayed this feeling in the United States. Our army, besides being of an insignificant strength compared with the physical force of the country, and so detached and scattered as to be mere maniples of men, has been so frequently resolved into its original elements of citizenship, and has at all times so mingled with our social institutions, as to appear a homogeneous part of the grand community, and only a better regulated and more effective body of militia. Still, however, it is that formidable engine of power, which has heretofore been so largely productive of evil to the liberties of the world—that most perfect organization, and massive concentration of human energies, which is still somewhat portentous under its most benign aspect;—and a sound policy and wise forecast would dictate, that it should ever be subjected to the wholesome restraint of a severe and frequent scrutiny.

Notwithstanding the instructive lessons left by the revolution, we entered on the war of 1812, in a state of extreme inefficiency with respect to all the administrative departments of military service. An utter waste of millions was the consequence. Experience, however, did not again teach in vain. Under the presidency of Mr. Monroe, and the secretaryship of Mr. Calhoun, a new era was formed in our national defence, the beneficial influences of which will continue to be felt as long as we are a free nation. Our present system of accountability and responsibility was then established. The reports which are found among the documents we have alluded to, show its operation and efficacy. From that period, the War

Department has held a new rank in the cabinet, and assumed a corresponding elevation in popular opinion. Previously, it had been regarded merely as the head quarters of the army.

During the last war, and for a few years subsequent, defalcations and defaults were of common occurrence. The guarantee of bonds became a mere shadow, and enactments, giving summary process, or the power to anticipate the slow determinations of the law, added but a feeble security. Where large sums, without regard to the immediate calls of the service, were lavishly distributed, and responsibility was allowed to postpone a settlement almost indefinitely, every opening was left to fraud, strong temptations were held out to cupidity, and negligence was encouraged by impunity. The establishment and strict enforcement of a few simple rules, converted this wastefulness and irresponsibility, into economy of disbursement and punctuality of settlement. Moneys are distributed only on regular and specific estimates, which show the objects and extent of the anticipated expenditure; and any omission to render an account at the close of each quarter, or three months, leads to an immediate investigation, which arrests the threatening default on the threshold. The amount issued being proportioned with all practicable exactness to immediate wants, is seldom large, and the necessity of rendering frequent accounts, leaves no scope for malversation, or even for carelessness.—The hazards attending the disbursement of public funds, are, under the present system, reduced almost to nothing. Of the large amount annually confided to the War Department, nearly every dollar is, at the proper season, promptly and precisely accounted for.

The public can also see by these documents, that the army is not an idle pageant, concentrated into masses, merely as nurseries of discipline, or in preparation for contingent events. It forms, as it were, only a chain of sentinels on our lengthened maritime and inland borders, the conservators of the public property as well as of the public peace. Every harbor, which is the resort of foreign commerce, and the inlet to an immense amount of property, requires a degree of protection, even in time of peace. Jurisdiction is best respected, when at all times prepared to punish any violation of it. A consideration of this kind justifies all the defence now afforded by the army to the seaboard, and would rather lead to an enlargement than diminution of it. And experience has satisfactorily showed that our inland frontiers have not a surplus bayonet. Recent events have probably induced an opinion, that a greater amount of force there, would have prevented many difficulties, saved the effusion of some blood, and the disbursement of large sums of the public money. An additional regiment in that quarter, would doubtless have obviated those events and their conse-

quences. And it is not unlikely that the cost of the militia services, which were resorted to, would have sustained such a regiment more than ten years.—Almost every Indian disturbance on our frontiers, may be traced with much probability to a belief among the savages, that we had not a force to repel or punish their aggressions. This belief has naturally arisen from the frequent evacuation of some of our border forts, erected, as the savages well knew, to hold them in check, and which they supposed would be abandoned only through weakness or fear. Many of the chiefs have penetration or experience to see the fallacy of such inferences. But the mass of the tribes, the young warriors aspiring and impatient, reason from observation alone. The temporary evacuations, at different periods, of Fort Gratiot, Chicago, Prairie du Chien, &c. were all followed by Indian troubles, which cost the nation more or less blood and treasure. Whether these measures were the result of necessity, or of experimental caprice, having more in view the particular improvement of the army, than the general defence and permanent quiet of the frontiers, it is not now worth while to inquire; but their consequences prove the importance of a constant military guard on our inland frontiers.

The troubles which occurred the last season, on the north-western frontier, through the ambition or restlessness of the celebrated chief, Black-Hawk, exhibited the army, and the facilities of the country for co-operative movements, under a new aspect. During the war of 1812, the obstructions on all our communications between the sea-board and the north-west, were such as to render auxiliary intercourse nearly impracticable. Those attempts that were made from unavoidable necessity, afforded only a tardy and inadequate relief, at an enormous expense. But the same region had undergone, in the mean time, a wonderful change. Population had spread over it, and avenues of all descriptions, had intersected it. Under these encouraging circumstances, the Secretary of War, on the occurrence of the north-western disturbances, determined to try the feasibility of transferring the maritime garrisons during the emergency, to that quarter; and, as will appear by his report, the experiment was completely successful, forming an epoch in the relations of our military defence, which shows the resources of the officer in whose mind it originated. Looking at the great avenues of communication, which connected the Atlantic with the region of the Lakes, Governor Cass saw, that the garrisons scattered along the former, could be transferred to the latter within a space of time that would enable them to participate in the operations there. An almost simultaneous movement was made from Old Point Comfort, Virginia, to Mackinaw, nearly every intermediate garrison being put under orders for Chicago, the point then supposed to be most conve-

nient to the seat of hostilities. A portion of these troops, which by the route necessarily taken, were eighteen hundred miles from this point, reached it in eighteen days; and had not the cholera—a truly formidable and appalling obstacle—intercepted the route, the whole body would have been concentrated there with a similar celerity. The causes which prevented these troops from aiding efficaciously in the concluding events of the disturbance, are well known. The important fact, however, that there exists, between the maritime and inland garrisons, a co-operative connexion, which may be available in all ordinary emergencies, is satisfactorily established; and we may deem it proved, that under most circumstances, the army, however segregated it may be, will be adequate to suppress all insurrectionary movements of the savages, and supersede the necessity of calling out the militia. The readiness with which large bodies of this part of our national defence turned out in the season of danger, for the protection of the border settlements, and to punish aggression, is creditable to the spirit and patriotism of the states which furnished them. But it is impossible to overlook the vast disproportion which exists between the actual service rendered by these hasty levies, and the public expense and individual sacrifices of which they are the cause. In a moment of alarm, calm and prudent calculation is rejected, as unsuited to the urgency of the case. When the adventurous Black-Hawk had fixed himself, in defiance of treaties, and apparently of the whole force of the country, with only a band of a few hundred warriors, on this side of the Mississippi, the States of Illinois and Indiana were seemingly ready to rise en masse, and precipitate themselves on the scene of action. Repeated calls were actually made on them for drafts. These, added to the volunteers that rushed zealously to the camp, formed a numerical force vastly exceeding the demands of the emergency. Their services, however, rendered with alacrity and in good faith, will, and should be remunerated without any inquiry as to this fact. But the amount of the cost should suggest the propriety of endeavouring, on the occurrence of similar events hereafter, to fulfil the same objects with more economy. The experiment made by Governor Cass has proved beyond a doubt, that there are few points on our inland frontier, on which an adequate regular force may not be concentrated in about the same time that would be required to bring into *effective* operation a body of militia from the neighboring states. That a desultory force could be hastily embodied in a shorter time, will not be denied. But these extempore movements are worse than useless, except to repulse an actual invasion. A body of men, whether militia or regulars, which marches out with only a hasty and scant supply of either provisions or ammunition, must soon march back again. Such



was the case in the late disturbance. Two thousand volunteers were marched from Illinois, who, before they reached the scene of action, exhausted their meagre supplies, and soon rejoined their firesides. This hebdomadal campaign will claim as full remuneration, as if it had resulted in the most beneficial service. But its effects were probably not merely negative. Such abortive movements have the most encouraging influences on an enemy, which could see in them only a proof of weakness or fear. There can be little doubt that Black Hawk, whose first designs were probably only to exact a new issue of corn, (that which he had received the previous year being exhausted) was emboldened to assume, as he afterwards did, the character of an avowed belligerent, by these signs of bravado and imbecility, which marked the outset of operations.

There is an indefinitude in services performed by militia, which places them beyond the limits of calculation. The claims arising out of them are hydra-like, and continue to spring up even after the generation has passed away which rendered them. The numerous acts, and the innumerable resolutions of Congress, attest this fact. But the expense attending the operations of regular troops can be subjected to comparative certainty. The maximum of their force can always be determined, and nearly every item of expenditure anticipated. As long as we have Indians on our borders, we must expect occasional border disturbances. If these can generally be suppressed by the regular army, incalculable sums may be saved to the national treasury; and the vicinal population will be exempted from those sacrifices of time and comfort, which even the large appropriations awarded on account of them must fail to counterbalance. That the army, with the present facilities of communication intersecting the whole country—facilities which must be constantly increasing—is adequate to this service, few will now doubt. The temporary evacuation of the maritime forts, in ordinary times, can be productive of no injury, provided arrangements be made for the security of the public property during the interval. A small guard, with a responsible officer, effects this arrangement. Such movements, moreover, give the army experience in a most essential part of its duty. Expertness in mobility has little scope for exercise in time of peace, and every fit occasion should be seized to enlarge it. With a view to this object, a rule has been established, that every garrison should be changed once in two years. It has not been often enforced, probably because it was found that the attendant expense, necessarily large, more than counterbalanced the benefit. No doubt it did, and such costly lessons could hardly be justified. But if this desirable instruction can be incidentally acquired—if the army, in the discharge of important duties, can occasion-

ally rub off the rust, or rather soil the too great polish of garrison life, by rapid movements from frontier to frontier, much benefit is effected at no additional cost.

The suggestion of the Secretary of War, to convert the corps of mounted rangers into a regiment of cavalry, well deserves the consideration of Congress. That corps was the offspring of hasty legislation, is of a most anomalous character, and proves to be enormously expensive. The latter characteristic can be justified only by the supposition that it is serviceable in proportion. This, however, is not presumed. To admit that its services are equal to those rendered by troops raised and kept up in the usual manner, is probably as much, and more than will be claimed, and if it prove to be more expensive, sufficient reasons are offered for the proposed conversion.

The propriety of mingling with our army a portion of cavalry, has long been gaining advocates. Our extended and often champaign frontier, opens a suitable field for its effective operation. The experience of the war of 1812, has led us to undervalue this arm of our national defence. Having proved almost unserviceable in its several campaigns, the dragoons were disbanded at the peace with little or no remonstrance from any quarter. But there may have been causes for their inefficiency at that time, which do not exist at present. It is true we had a regiment of dragoons from 1808: but it is also true that they were not mounted until 1812; consequently the regiment of four years' standing was, on the event of the war, as fresh and inexperienced as the additional regiment which was raised in 1812. They were both hurried into service with little or no preparation: and the scene of active operations being mostly in a region broken and intersected by lakes and rivers, and obstructed by forests, they proved at all times an expensive, sometimes a troublesome, and more often a useless incumbrance.— But a body of horse would now find a most appropriate field on some of our inland frontiers, where its faculty of prompt movement would make it incomparably more formidable than infantry. A few flying camps, or squadrons of well disciplined cavalry, which should be moveable between certain given points, would extend a cordon along the Missouri and Mississippi frontiers, that would augment many fold their security, and give new confidence to the itinerant trade which is scattered over them. Every dictate of economy and prudence is in favor of such a corps, even for present service. Its several parts, under the distribution we have suggested, would form intermediate links, connecting our widely separated posts into one continuous chain of defence; and having cavalry as a component part of our army, we should at all times, in emergencies, have a stock of experience and discipline, on which we could engraft with every assurance of early fruits. It is inexcusable and

wasteful folly to send raw infantry into the field ; but untrained men, on untrained horses, form a combination of awkwardness that can ensure nothing but extravagance and disgrace.

These considerations naturally ally themselves with the recommendation of the Secretary of War, in concurrence with that of the board of visitors, that cavalry exercises should be made a part of the course of instruction at West Point. It is probable that every board has felt a desire to propose such an enlargement of the system ; and those which have not expressed it, have doubtless been deterred only by the belief, that, as we had none of that arm in service, it would be a vain recommendation. Now that we have actually such a corps—for the rangers are such, though under a most imperfect organization—the recommendation may be urged with new force. The institution at West Point, which is deservedly the boast of the nation, should be so organized as to send forth its elites accomplished in all the elementary exercises of war. Equestration is an essential quality in the character of every officer.

As the present brief session of Congress, (February, 1833,) occupied as it is with subjects of imperative and paramount interest, will probably exclude all consideration of the foregoing suggestions of the Secretary of War, as well as of many others he has presented of much importance to the service, it may not be useless to pass them in review, in order to direct more effectually towards them the public attention, preparatory to future action. The Secretary of War, in his report, recurs to the often repeated proposition, relative to an augmentation of the two engineer corps, adducing reasons for it which would seem to be unanswerable. The omission to legislate on these subjects, when urged by motives so importunate, is somewhat unaccountable. The question is not whether more money shall be drawn from the treasury for this purpose, but as to the best disposition of that which is already in the course of expenditure. There is, we believe, expended annually, an amount sufficient to support the two corps with the enlargement proposed. If this be the case, it will be inquired whether the result be equally beneficial to the country. Under the present system, there is a continual waste of valuable experience, which in a regular corps is accumulating for the advantage of the government. Change or succession in duties which require science and practice, keeps them depressed at the minimum of value and usefulness. There can be little or no accumulation. By the time ordinary expertness is attained, rotation substitutes another novice ; and thus some of the most important concerns of the country are divided between ordinary expertness and utter ignorance. Were these corps, by new enactments made susceptible of expansion, they could be recruited from the military academy with young men, having every pre-



requisite,—and whose abilities, ever on the increase, would be like an investment, the interest of which would be constantly accruing to the country. The great plan of our fortifications is, we are aware, in the course of fulfilment. But besides that its completion will require yet many years, we can find little reason to hesitate in giving the engineer corps a capacity commensurate with this immense work, in the contingency that such an extension may exceed the exact demands of a remote future. Even this shadowy objection, however, does not apply to the topographical corps, whose useful employment does not depend on any scheme which is likely to be less urgent in its demands for the skill and experience of its officers hereafter than at present. However the power of internal improvement may be modified, it is a system which must prevail in this country. A rich and enterprising people will not permit state lines to be impassable boundaries to its prosperity. Under some constitutional and unobjectionable form, internal improvement must and will advance; and the topographical corps will be the main depository of the skill that is to guide it onward.

We regret to observe that the Secretary of War has, in the report of the present year, omitted all allusion to a subject, which was prominently stated in his previous report, and in favor of which, every argument still applies with undiminished force. In order that his just and intelligent opinions on the subject may be revived, we quote his remarks on it as they appeared in his report of 1831.

“It is due to the army, that the subject of brevet commissions should be placed before you. So far as respects the services and compensation of officers holding those commissions, the present regulations are just, and well calculated to prevent any injury to the public service. No officer can receive the pay of his brevet rank unless serving in that capacity when on duty, and having a command according to his brevet rank. There are twenty-nine officers in the army now drawing brevet pay.

“These brevet commissions presuppose experience in the officer, and are founded on the presumption, that circumstances may arise when his services may be useful in a more extensive sphere than that in which, by his lineal commission, he is required to act; and these circumstances will oftener be found in our service, than in any other. Our regular troops and militia must frequently act together. When thus co-operating, the officers of the regular army take rank of all militia officers of the same grade, whatever may be the date of their respective commissions. This rule is highly beneficial to the public interest, because, without creating invidious distinctions it gives to experience its proper weight. By granting brevet commissions, after ten years' service in one grade, agreeably to the present rule, experienced officers will be provided for command upon detachment, or at posts where objects are important or the danger imminent.

“The construction which has been given to the law on this subject, has restricted the granting of brevet commissions upon prior ones to those cases only where ten years' services have been rendered under such prior commissions. There may be some doubt respecting the correctness of this view, and also the expediency of this restriction.

“These commissions, except in the few instances stated, and those very proper, occasion no expense to government. They are in their operation



rewards for past good conduct, and incentives to future. They cannot be abused, for ten years' service certainly qualify an officer for a higher grade; and to attain by brevet promotion the rank of brigadier general from the commencement of the term of a captain, requires a period of forty years. And if to this be added the necessary progress through the two lower grades of first and second lieutenant, the prospect of a young man, on entering our service, is not very flattering. Nor has he much to hope from his pay. It is barely sufficient to enable the officers, with rigid economy, to live respectably; and few of them leave for their children any inheritance but a good name.

"It is important that a just pride of character, personal and professional, should be encouraged in a class of men, whose usefulness depends essentially upon the cultivation of such feeling. This system of promotion, so useful in war and economical in peace, offers honorable objects of ambition, and cannot fail to stimulate the exertions of the officers of the army."

We can hardly hope to add any thing to these appropriate observations, which would be likely to give the subject new interest or importance. But the apparent determination of the senate not to act on the subject, and the repeated introduction into that body, of a proposition to repeal the brevet law, cannot but excite a deep anxiety in the army, and may justify new endeavours to awaken a feeling in favor of its rights and its honor. We are aware that the subject is too exclusively professional to address itself with much force to any mind not in some degree alive to military prepossessions. And we are also aware that there have been some controversies connected with it, which, for a season, gave it an unpopular notoriety. But—in respect to the latter—something should be pardoned to the spirit of the vocation. Much of that ardor, which is kindled in camp, still animates the soldier, when his sword is sheathed, and he is prone to bandy words with something of the zeal with which he would splinter a lance. The public, nevertheless, have an interest in upholding his rights, and would not intentionally sanction any unnecessary infringement of them. It may be conceded, that the brevet law has been greatly perverted in this country. The service of no other exhibits such excesses. We borrowed our statute on the subject from the British, and it would have been better had we abided by their practice under it. How we came to depart so widely from it, can now hardly be accounted for. The article of war, which was common to both countries, was, and is we believe, limited in its operations, in the elder country, to regiments; and had we observed the same restriction, our army might perhaps have been equally rewarded for its valor and achievements, and at the same time have preserved more of its symmetry, by being less overburdened with adscititious rank. We may infer from some of the enactments of the Revolutionary Congress, what position brevets held in the scale of honorable rewards in those memorable and exemplary days. We cannot now recur to the record, but we are led by memory to

believe, that the conspicuous actors at the taking of Stony Point—one of the most daring and brilliant achievements of the revolution—were rewarded, the chief of the party, (General Wayne) with a medal; the leaders of storming columns, (Lieutenant Colonels) with swords; and the subalterns of the forlorn hope, with brevets. This was a chary distribution of honors, compared with the practice of the last war. Many of those battles which stand so prominent in history, were followed by no brevets. The only commission (so far as we are informed) of that kind, which was conferred on the distinguished actors in the battles that preceded the surrender of Burgoyne, was Col. Wilkinson's, which was, however, afterwards revoked.—And during the first years of the last war, the brevet law remained nearly or quite inoperative. It is true those years were eminent for disasters rather than triumphs. Still, however, they had achievements, which were subsequently deemed worthy the brevet compliment. But the campaign of 1814, exhibiting a series of victories which stood in bright contrast with the reverses that had generally marked the previous campaigns, seemed to awaken a new feeling in the government, towards the army. Like most reactions, it went to an extreme. A discreet exercise of the power conferred by the brevet law, during the previous years, might have sooner roused the pride and energies of the army, depressed to the lowest degree by disasters and discountenance; and a like discretion, during the flush of reaction and triumph, would have made brevets, instead of being a mere proof of having been in action, an evidence of having been eminent for valor or conduct there. Had the stern discrimination of the revolution prevailed during the last war, highly distinguished as it was for gallantry and achievement, the list of brevetted officers might have been a brief one, and still have left both the country and individuals their complement of renown. The victory of Brownstown would perhaps have been rewarded with a brevet, not because the triumph there was great, but because it was the initial success, on land, of the war, and by way of encouragement to the future: though Colonel Prescott received no such compliment for the Spartan-like stand he made, on the threshold of the revolution, at Breed's Hill; a precedent, however, better in the breach than in the performance. The gallant defence of Fort Sandusky would have been conspicuously rewarded in all times and in any nation. And so, probably, would have been the capture of the battery at Lundy's Lane. These allusions are not intended to detract from the well-earned and acknowledged merit of a large number of officers, whose names are conspicuously interwoven with the history of the last war. Their reputation was not given by a brevet, nor would it have been less had none been conferred.

We know little of the operation of the brevet law in the British service. It has not been so extensive or common as to excite much notice; nor would it seem to have been a usual mode of rewarding individual distinction. Their system of promotion beyond the grade of Colonel, is peculiar, and has no analogy with ours. The practice of the French army has also been widely different. Brevets are there conferred under a very restricted rule, and generally on the field of battle, as a reward for some achievement, so signal and prominent, as to be ratified by the applause of the whole army engaged.

But these various laws relative to military brevets, become in time of peace, inoperative. "Gallant actions," which, in most services, give claim to them, are the offspring of war alone. In our service, however, the rule was enlarged. The law, allowing the president to confer brevets, was enacted in 1812, just at the commencement of the war of that period. In order to offer every usual incitement to gallantry and enterprise, this power respecting them was bestowed on the executive, adding, however, to the more common claims for such a distinction, that of having "served ten years in one grade." This extension of the ordinary scope of such laws, must have had in view only a comparatively remote effect, as, under all probable calculations, it could not come into operation during the hostilities then about being commenced. It looked to the state of peace that was likely to ensue, and permitted every officer who took a commission, and bore his part in the struggle, to regard promotion at the end of a certain time, as among the rewards of his service. It is not at all to the purpose now to inquire into the necessity or expediency of offering at that time, this new incentive to military zeal. There might have been no lack of exertion, had the law stopped at the usual limit. It was not certainly among the weeds which called forth the emulations and glorious strivings of war. But it became valuable in time of peace, and the army has now enjoyed its privileges for nearly twenty years. More than that time has elapsed since the enactment of the law; but, although really in force, it has been practically repealed the last three years. It has become a mode of promotion, which, although slow, is sure. The ordinary mode is still slower, without any certainty. With all the privileges and chances of promotion now annexed to a commission, the cadet of West Point, on being graduated, can hardly anticipate the attainment of the rank of brigadier general, (either by brevet or otherwise,) under sixty years. He has seven grades to pass through. The chances of ordinary promotion, as we have observed, taking the aggregate time into calculation, are not likely to advance him beyond the reach of the brevet law, which has, thus far, overtaken almost every grade in service. If then he can rely on that of the latter alone,



supposing him to receive a commission at twenty, he is likely to become a brigadier general, by brevet, at eighty. There is nothing conjectural or exaggerated in this statement. It is the plain result of a plain case.

It may well be asked, where is the evil of such a law, which should justify its practical repeal, even while yet in force? Or that should call for such persevering attempts to repeal it in form as well as in substance? The last brevet commissions were conferred in 1829. Since then, the senate has not acted on any nominations that may have been sent in. That they *have* been sent in, we have every reason to suppose, as well as that the president is, at least, in favor of fulfilling the law while it stands unrepealed. The law of 1818 imposed a restriction on that of 1812. Under the latter, the president conferred brevets without reference to the senate. The former makes such a reference necessary. But this is also the case in ordinary promotions. The president may fill the vacancy during the recess of the senate, but the appointment is not valid until that body has given its sanction. In both cases, there is nothing imperative on the president; he fills up vacancies or proposes brevets, on the same principle, namely, to sustain the army in its proper organization, and to fulfil the laws. The senate might decline to act in the one case as in the other. It is true the consequences would not be the same, as, were no brevets conferred, the organization of the army would still be complete. But as long as the law authorizing the president to confer this decennial rank stands in the statute book unrepealed, and the president sees fit to propose officers for promotion under it, it will not be deemed disrespectful to the senate to remark, that only objections of a strong and obvious character would seem to justify inaction on the subject. The objection which has been occasionally advanced, that the army is becoming overburdened with anticipated rank, is satisfactorily met by the Secretary of War in the foregoing extract. As he remarks, ten years' service is evidence of qualification for a higher grade; and the probable association of the army with the militia, in all seasons of general hostility, renders it peculiarly proper to give the officers of the former as much rank as the laws and a proper regard to experience will authorize. Whatever fears may have been entertained previous to 1818, as to the additional expense which might accrue under a fulfilment of the law as it then stood, the act of that year put a restriction on it, which leaves the most radical economist no just grounds for apprehension. It may truly be said, that these brevet commissions "occasion no expense to the government," while "they are in their operation rewards for past good conduct, and incentives to the future." With few exceptions, we have brigadier generals receiving only the pay of colonels; colonels



receiving the pay of lieutenant colonels ; and so on down to the lowest grade. Scarcely an officer enjoys this anticipated rank, who has not passed through the novitiate of ten years, and thus become amply qualified to receive it. In the British service, an officer is considered eligible to the rank of captain, when he has served two years as an " effective subaltern ;" and he may become a major after six years' service. Under our brevet law, which is regarded by the senate as being so obnoxious, and which cannot be safely allowed to operate even while in force, a subaltern coming in as he must in the initial grade, cannot attain the rank of captain under *twenty* years, nor that of major under *thirty*—and so on. If it be said, that the ordinary march of promotion outstrips this tardy pace, then the law becomes inoperative and harmless. It can never apply, except in aid of an officer who has been left ten years in one grade.

Several propositions have been submitted to the senate within a few years, relative to this subject. It seems to have been presumed, that *some* action on it had become indispensable.—During the controversies to which we have before alluded, perhaps such an opinion was somewhat prevalent. But those controversies would neither have been prevented nor mitigated, had that part of the brevet law which we are now considering never been enacted. They arose out of other portions of it ; and unless the senate is prepared to determine, that, in the event of another war, " gallant actions " shall neither be encouraged nor rewarded, they are likely to arise again. This decennial rank admits of no irregularity in its bestowment, and consequently can become the cause of bickerings no more than ordinary promotion. The other and more important parts of the brevet law fall into desuetude at the conclusion of a war, and would doubtless have been repealed had not this been deemed the case. It stands in the statute book ready to be revived, when its provisions would properly become applicable. But this new feature was added with a view to peace alone, and in order to improve the ordinary chances of promotion during that period of inaction, so that the military aspirant might lay the flattering assurance to his soul, that he would reach the rank (though not consequently the emoluments) of brigadier general, at the end of sixty years. Our highest rank is that of major general. The event of a gallant war has elevated some few to that grade, who enjoy it while yet in middle age. But in these days, even if the senate permit the brevet law to stand, with all its obnoxious features, none but octogenaries can hope to reach it.

A proposition offered a few years ago in the senate, went simply to repeal the law, leaving it to operate of course up to the date of the repeal. We do not know that Colonel Benton's proposition differs from this ; though we are led to ap-

prehend that it is intended to retro-act as far as 1829. By prohibiting, as it is said to do, all future brevets, the senate cannot act on those which have become due since that period. If such be the intention, we are warranted in saying, that it will bear with extreme hardship on a large class of meritorious officers. We would not speak of vested rights. That phrase would perhaps be too strong, as applying to all kinds of promotion in the army; though if rights, accruing under usage or common law, assume a vested character, we might not widely err in adopting it. Indeed, the right of brevet promotion is even more legally secured than that of ordinary promotion, as the one is founded on a positive statute, and the other merely on usage. No officer has an absolute claim to the vacancy which happens next above him, as no law secures it to him; and yet, (presuming no disqualification to exist) he is permitted to regard it as incontestable. So, with like reason, or rather with stronger reason, every officer has, through a course of twenty years, been permitted to look forward to brevet advancement at the end of ten years, as a reward for his lengthened service. This prospect has been rendered certain by a law, and the invariable practice under it. And however remote it may be, it has been a necessary encouragement even to those who entered the army when it was not required to begin the ascent at the lowest round of the ladder. How much more necessary must it be to those who are subjected to this restriction. Take it away from them, and they may well despair.

What, we may be allowed to ask, would have been the effect of fulfilling the law each year thus far? The army would have had a few brevet additions to each grade, with little or no increase of expense to the treasury; that is, a few officers who had served ten years faithfully in one grade, and had, consequently, as all admit, become qualified for promotion, would be advanced under the law, and according to usage;—thereby rendering the army in all respects more effective, and particularly adapted for beneficial association with the militia. What, we may likewise ask, has been the effect of withholding these brevets, and practically repealing the law while yet in full force? A class of valuable officers feels itself aggrieved and humbled—perhaps the victim of partiality and injustice; and the whole army feels an anxious sense of insecurity for its rights and immunities. The more immediate sufferers see their predecessors in the enjoyment of honors, perhaps emoluments, to which they think they have an equal right under both law and usage. They continue to discharge their duties with strictness and punctuality. The penalties of neglect may ensure this; but prompt and willing hearts should be joined with ready and skilful hands.

The army is the depository of that fund of military and sci-

entific attainment, which is annually sent forth from West Point. When the character which now belongs more particularly to the subordinate grades, shall have pervaded all ranks, we shall have as effective a body of officers, so far as it can be formed in time of peace, as we hesitate not to say, the world can boast. Such a body would seem to be a proper object of all just encouragement. The honor and welfare of the country are in some degree identified with it. There should be every proper inducement held out to retain in it the most accomplished and the most worthy: we do not say that the commissions of the army will not be filled. But how few of the highly endowed would be contented long to remain in a service, which would deny him the assurance of being a colonel at three score! There are young men annually graduated at the military academy, whose capacity and attainments, combined with ten years' service, would fit them for almost any grade in service; and yet the senate would withdraw the certainty of becoming even a first lieutenant in that time.

Colonel Benton, who, as the chairman of the military committee in the senate, becomes the putative father of most of the propositions we have alluded to, was, although but a short time, yet long enough in the army, to enter into some of the feelings of a soldier. He must have some sympathy with his almost covetous desire for rank. It is the aliment of his military spirit, and should be administered with all proper liberality; as it would be impolitic to pamper it with a lavish abundance, it would be equally so to starve it with needless parsimony. If the object be to preclude the contentions that have occasionally arisen, the repeal proposed, as we have before remarked, would not attain it. Nothing short of a revocation of the honor which rewarded the gallantry of the war of 1812, can attain it. Recall those which crowned the achievements on the Niagara, at Plattsburg, and New Orleans, and every cause of brevet contention is removed. To do this, all will admit, would be extreme injustice; and moreover would raise an outcry in the nation. But the proposition now before the senate, though unjust in a diminished degree, and unlikely to excite any popular clamor, has less reason to sustain it, as it has no past evils to correct, and promises no future benefit. Under the aspect which it wears to us, the proposed repeal would appear to be mere wantonness of legislation.

If the object be economy, and to avoid the occasional and contingent expense which the law now admits, we would suggest, in order to make that impossible which is now improbable, that the law be only so modified, as to exclude all additional emolument arising under its provisions in time of peace. The army would be content to make any pecuniary sacrifice to retain its long enjoyed, though still limited chances for pro-



motion, provided such a sacrifice be required. It might also see, without regret, its range of operation confined to regimental rank.

This may seem to be a question of very limited interest. It is undoubtedly so regarded by the senate, which receives and partially acts on the proposition of Colonel Benton each session, without any feeling of hesitation or word of dissent. We cannot but believe that that high and dignified body, absorbed by the consideration of far more urgent topics, has permitted the bearing of this military question to escape all attention; and we cannot but indulge a hope, that it will not be persuaded through an unhesitating confidence in the opinion of one man, whatever claims to respect his presumed military experience, or rank on the military committee may give him, to deprive the army of a privilege which has been secured to it by law and usage so many years, without due inquiry into its necessity or expediency. Any question which seriously affects the cherished interests of an important part of our national defence, is worthy of a deliberate and full investigation; and we are satisfied, that if such be the case, the army has nothing to fear for its rights or its honors.

Since the preceding remarks were written, two acts have been passed by Congress, materially affecting the army. One of these provides for the organization of a regiment of dragoons, and the other for the improvement of the condition of the soldiers. The former will add a most useful arm to our military establishment, and the latter, by the increase of pay to the non-commissioned officers and privates, by abolition of bounty, and by the curtailment of the period of enlistment, will, it is believed, prove entirely beneficial in practice.

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MILITARY ANECDOTE.—One of the officers of our Army, proverbial for his humanity and attention to those under his command, was taking his accustomed rounds to enquire into the wants and administer to the comfort of the invalids. Among them was a soldier named Seabreeze, who had been a long time on the sick list. When the captain entered, the soldier was seated, *sans culottes*, repairing the breaches in his nether garments; a task he was able to accomplish with much difficulty, owing to his weakness. The captain accosted him,—“Well, Seabreeze, how do you feel to-day?” “Why, thank’ee, captain,” replied the sick man, drawing his coarse needle at the same time through his small clothes, “I’m mend-ing slow-ly.”



## INFANTRY AND ARTILLERY.

Having admitted the communication, signed W, to which the following is intended as a reply, complaining of the advantages possessed by the Artillery over the Infantry, justice requires that what the Artillery officers have to say, should be heard. At the same time, nothing can be more objectionable than to engender a spirit of animosity or unkind feeling between members of the same profession, among whom harmony and union should be the watchword. The writer, who signs himself C, and undertakes to defend the Artillery, treats the subject rather lightly and cavalierly. We take no sides in the question, but it does appear to us that the Infantry officers have some cause to envy their brethren of the Artillery, on account of their more favored stations; and yet it would seem preposterous to blend the duties of the respective branches of the Army in one common mass.

## FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

In the last number of the Military and Naval Magazine there is published a sort of memorial and petition to the President of the United States—setting forth what the memorialist considers the wrongs and injuries of one corps of the army, and the privileges and ingratitude of another. This memorialist calls himself W, and complains of it as a great hardship, that the Artillery and Infantry have always heretofore been assigned to different duties at posts of a distinct character—the one at forts on the seaboard adapted to their arms, and the other at barracks and cantonments of the western frontier, where muskets alone are in requisition—instead of being made to interchange duties with each other, and each act the part of the other and its own part by turns. He complains further, that the artillery officers, ungrateful that they are, are not so much as ‘thankful’ for being permitted all this time to occupy artillery posts, but do actually suppose that they have a right to continue to be what they were organized, and to do what they were organized for—their own duty, rather than the duty of their much esteemed brethren, whose “chivalric, soldierlike-feelings,” W tells us, have thus far “forbade personal considerations being opposed to public arrangements;” but who have, if W be a true representative, discovered that public “considerations” (see what it is to have public spirit) require that “this course should now be departed from.” That they should no longer “look to unimportuned authority for their due, rather than to loud complaints, however just, or written memorials, however able,” W has, therefore, written this memorial.

If the millennium, foreseen by St. John, is to be, as some good democrats believe, no more than the perfection of equality, the millennium is surely at hand. Let the Devil look out; his thousand years of solitary confinement must shortly commence. A man is not content in these days in eating his own bread, unless convinced that his neighbor's bread has not one grain more of salt in it. The left arm is indignant that it should have been so long required to bear the musket, when no good reason, or act of Congress, can be shewn why it should bear it rather than its dexter brother: and W is angry and public spirited, because he has taken it into his head that his brother officers of another corps, have made their beds better, and sleep more soundly than he does.

I have no thought of drawing up a counter memorial to the President—still less of vying with 'W' in rhetoric, for I am quite unused to the pen. But I will state in a plain way some plain truths, which will present this subject of complaint under its proper aspect.

The corps of artillery is as distinct from the infantry, in its organization and the nature of its proper service, as from the engineers or dragoons. The infantry has no more right to its batteries than to the dragoon horses. Each corps was organized with a view to particular duties, from the nature of which it took its name—and each corps offers its peculiar advantages to the officers commissioned in it.

These are in some respects more favorable to the artillery, in some to the infantry; but are, upon the whole, sufficiently well balanced. But every station in life, civil or military, has incident to it disagreeable as well as good things; and the man who is disposed by temper to quarrel with fortune, and envy his brethren, will always be able, whatever his condition, to discover some thorns and thistles in his own fields which he does not find in his neighbor's. But first as to duties.

That the soldier should not be separated from his proper arms, (except upon emergency) and that each corps should serve at those stations where its peculiar arms and services are wanted, seem to me very clear propositions.

It seems not less clear, that forts and fortresses on the seaboard, constructed for the defence of harbors from naval armaments, must be made available to their object by cannon, not musketry; and that cannon are the proper arms of the corps of artillery, and not of the infantry. True, there is little probability (unfortunately for us) of these forts being presently attacked; but if they are to be garrisoned, let it be with the arm for which they were constructed. The object of keeping an army in peace is to familiarize the soldier with his arms and his duties; and he should do in peace for exercise, precisely what he will be called upon to do in war. The sum total of

the knowledge and science required of an artillery officer, does not consist in manœuvring a field piece and firing a shell. No military man requires to be informed that it does not.

But it is true, too, that the means of perfecting officers in the theory and practice of artillery duties, are still very limited at most of our forts. The forts are not completely armed, and the artillery exercises, therefore, not much practiced at them. This defect, however, is daily being remedied; and there is ground to hope, that in a few years our artillerists will be inferior to none in the world. But the way to make them so, is not to send them away to infantry posts—albeit they might find at some of them, those few field six pounders which 'W' takes so much credit to himself for being able to shoot.

It is true, too, as W writes to the President, that it has been an object with the executive "to make the several parts of our army *measurably* acquainted with the duties of all the parts."—But it has not been an object with the executive, though it is the object of W, to *amalgamate* all the several parts into one confused whole. If it had been so, no separate organization of engineers, artillery, infantry, and dragoons, would have been made. Each part is "*measurably* acquainted with the duties of all the parts"—and has become so without the necessity of transforming and confounding them according to W's wishes. But it is for each corps to *perfect itself* in its own peculiar duties, and this is quite incompatible with W's project.

W asks, whether the duties of artillery "could not be learned and performed by officers and men of infantry?"

No one impeaches the *capacity* of the infantry officers—I esteem and honor them: many of them I am proud to number among my friends. There are not better soldiers in any corps of any service. But the question is not what they might be capable of performing, but what they are called upon by their office to perform. So might they, for aught that I will gainsay, learn and perform the duties of engineers and of dragoons. So may many citizens who hold no office in army or navy, be capable of making very good officers of either. So might a lawyer make a very good pill. It is little less than ridiculous, (if it is less) that a man should claim it as a right to *swap* offices with his neighbor, against his neighbor's will, on the ground that he feels himself competent to "learn and perform" his neighbor's duties.

Nor am I able to perceive the hardship and injustice which W rails about. When a man accepts a commission, he does so, I should suppose, with the expectation of performing the duties of that commission, and not of another. So long as the nature of those duties is not altered, he has no right to make an outcry of injustice. Has the nature of the duties and stations of the infantry been changed? On the contrary, the very



thing complained of is, that it has not. All Presidents, all Secretaries of War, and Commanders in Chief, have thus far thought their present their proper stations. (W thinks more or less wisely.) The officers of infantry took their commissions with a full knowledge of this, and (like the dragoon) therefore with the prospect and intention of becoming frontiers men—not exiles—the west is not a Siberian desert.

Where then is the injustice of holding them to their bargains? What right have they to claim the long established and proper stations of another corps? But there would be both hardship and injustice in transferring the artillery to infantry stations—especially while the organization of artillery and infantry regiments continues such as it now is—and this brings me to speak of the relative advantages enjoyed by the officers of the several corps, which I have stated to be sufficiently well balanced.

Though commissions in the artillery rather than infantry, are given on leaving the military academy, as rewards for closer application and greater proficiency in the sciences taught there, which indeed have more connexion with artillery than infantry duties—still, notwithstanding the remoteness of most of the infantry posts, some officers who graduate in the artillery, apply for the infantry in preference—and this for a very good reason: promotion in the latter corps is nearly twice as rapid as in the other. On entering an artillery regiment at the foot of the second lieutenants, the cadet must trust to providence to kill off thirty-six officers of the regiment that he may rise to a captaincy; whereas if he enters the infantry, he has only twenty steps to his ladder. Twenty deaths by accidents of flood and food, (there are no accidents of field in these days except among farmers) places him on the highest summit to which, in the course of nature, a soldier in these piping times, can hope to rise, short of the age of three score and ten.

Hence it happens, that of those who graduate together, the infantry officers are captains often as soon as their class-mates of the artillery are first lieutenants.

Now I trust our brethren of the foot are not so unconscionable as to wish to have all this in their favor, and the advantage of station to boot. If they will insist on sharing equally with us, whatever pleasures the nature of our duties affords us, they cannot, if they are christians, object that we should share in turn the profit and promotion which their organization gives them. Would a majority of the infantry officers, or any considerable portion of them, consent to have the two corps amalgamated—melted together to organize a new corps, a sort of nameless thing, semi-infantry, demi-artillery—in which all officers should take rank according to the date of their original commissions? I am much mistaken in them if they would. But this arrangement would transfer to us only one half of the



greater number of chances of promotion which they now enjoy over us.

But, indeed, I know that a large proportion of the officers of infantry, and by far the most valuable and enterprising among them, would object, if it were left to their free option, to being transferred to the seaboard, on any terms. Not a few of them I have seen wearied of our large cities, after a short sojourn, and pining for the free woods of the west. They entered the infantry with a knowledge that the west was its station, and with the intention of making the west their homes. They have made it their homes. Their affections, their social relations, their interest, have been transferred there. They have formed friends among the intelligent and adventurous outsettlers; have perhaps made some investments in the cheap rich lands—for there it does not require an officer's whole pay, and much economy besides, to live decently. They have learned to find society in the majestic forests—the wild, grand scenes with which they are surrounded, and around which their affections have entwined themselves. A city would be more irksome to them, as a residence, than the woods to an inhabitant of cities. They have long since learned to forego, to despise luxuries, which on the seaboard, a man of slender means must struggle and scuffle to procure, or at least make a show of, because they are wants of the place. They do not pine for the affectations, and follies, and artificialities, of the more fashionable world—all proper enough in their way doubtless, and necessary; but by reason of an artificial necessity of an artificial state, which unfits for enjoying those delights which “maternal nature,” far away from cities, and the hum of men, proffers in abundant streams to her unspoiled children.

It will be found in general, that those officers of infantry, who complain so loudly of their posts, are those who have been little at them. Those, who, having obtained commissions without having any violent love for the duties of them, have managed to keep away from “the burning climes,” and “distant wilds,” and “unhospitable positions,” which are at a distance so frightful to their imaginations. Those are the men who make a clamor and an outcry; endeavour to excite dissatisfaction and jealousy, and to confound all corps and all services—an object as inconsistent with interest and comfort of either corps, as it is with the good of the service.

Nothing could so effectually preclude the possibility of enjoying the good and pleasant things, to be found at the two extreme borders of the country, as a constant change of residence from one to the other. It is as if you should go about to ameliorate the condition of the inhabitants of the frigid and of the torrid zones, by compelling a continual migration from one to the other—a flight of benevolence too wild for even a female

philanthropic society. Tartarus, itself, would become tolerable, if of nearly an uniform temperature. To make devils and bad men as miserable as they deserve to be, Milton thinks it necessary to change their quarters from burning brimstone to freezing snows.

As for W's notion, that officers should be transferred from the interior to the seaboard for the good of their morals, it certainly has the credit of originality. That a city is the emporium of virtue as well as fashion—that a man must pass half his time in or near cities for the good of his soul, to learn temperance and chastity—that, in a word, he who was "never in court is damned—like an ill roasted egg, all on one side," because "if thou wast never at court, thou never sawest good manners, then thy manners are wicked, and wickedness is sin, and sin is damnation;" all this W surely learned from that queer wag Touchstone; but for applying it so dexterously, and all for the sake of the "*public interest*" too, he certainly deserves a brevet. As for the apprehension that all "*the most promising*" officers of infantry "are preparing to abandon the service in disgust," we must beg W's pardon for thinking that his zeal has outstripped his judgment, and that this one of his facts is as unsound as all of his arguments. Even if it were true, however, the remedy proposed is an unsafe one, an expensive one, and an unjust one. Men *can* be found to do the public service in every section of the United States, without the necessity of an act so prejudicial to the public interest. Competent officers have been, and can always be, procured for every corps of the army, without imposing upon government a new and vicious organization of the army, or the necessity of confusing and confounding duties and services, under the present organization.

C.

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### SKETCHES OF NAVAL LIFE.

Allusion has already been made to, and one or two extracts copied from, the essays of "PETER SIMPLE," published originally in the London Metropolitan. They are so true to life, that the general reader cannot fail to be amused by them, and to feel an interest in the destiny of the young midshipman, who is just leaving his paternal roof, and starting upon his professional career. Lovers of nautical adventure will understand with pleasure that these sketches are about being republished by Messrs. HARPER, of New York; when they appear, a rich treat may be anticipated; they are written with all the naiveté of a youth, well educated and tenderly brought up. We do not say that every one who enters our Naval service is a Peter Simple; but we do say, that each may derive some benefit from the recital

of the difficulties which beset a youth, who, when he receives an appointment in the Navy, fancies it the path to glory, strewed with flowers and with sweets. He has not merely to put up with a change of fare, but must submit to the jeers of his companions, and the scrutiny of his superior officers; and is moreover exposed to many temptations to vice and dissipation. Scarcely any contrast can be imagined, greater than that which exists between the comforts of the domestic fireside and the duties of a young midshipman on board a man of war.

FROM THE LONDON METROPOLITAN, FOR JUNE, 1832.

### PETER SIMPLE.

BY THE AUTHOR OF NEWTON FOSTER.

If I cannot narrate a life of adventurous and daring exploits, fortunately I have no heavy crimes to confess; and if I do not rise in the estimation of the reader for acts of gallantry and devotion in my country's cause, at least I may claim the merit of humble and unobtrusive continuance in my vocation. We are all of us variously gifted from above, and he who is content to walk, instead of running, his allotted path through life, although he may not so rapidly attain the goal, has the advantage of not being out of breath upon his arrival. Not that I mean to infer that my life has not been one of adventure. I only mean to say, that in all which has occurred, I have been a passive, rather than an active, personage; and if events of interest are to be recorded, they certainly have not been sought by me.

As well as I can recollect and analyze my early propensities, I think that, had I been permitted to select my own profession, I should in all probability have bound myself apprentice to a tailor; for I always envied the comfortable seat which they appeared to enjoy upon the shopboard, and their elevated position, which enabled them to look down upon the constant succession of the idle or the busy, who passed in review before them in the main street of the country town, near to which I passed the first fourteen years of my existence.

But my father, who was a clergyman of the Church of England, and the youngest brother of a noble family, had a lucrative living, and a "soul above buttons," if his son had not. It has been from time immemorial the heathenish custom to sacrifice the greatest fool of the family to the prosperity and naval superiority of the country, and at the age of fourteen I was selected as the victim. If the custom be judicious, I had no reason to complain. There was not one dissentient voice, when I was proposed before all the varieties of my aunts and cousins, invited to partake of our new year's festival. I was selected by general acclamation. Flattered by such an unani-



mous acknowledgment of my qualification, and a stroke of my father's hand down my head which accompanied it, I felt as proud, and alas! as unconscious, as the calf with gilded horns, who plays and mumbles with the flowers of the garland which designates his fate to every one but himself. I even felt, or thought I felt, a slight degree of military ardour, and a sort of vision of future grandeur passed before me, in the distant vista of which I perceived a coach with four horses and a service of plate. It was, however, driven away before I could decipher it, by positive bodily pain, occasioned by my elder brother Tom, who, having been directed by my father to snuff the candles, took the opportunity of my abstraction, to insert a piece of the still ignited snuff into my left ear. But as my story is not a very short one, I must not dwell too long at its commencement. I shall therefore inform the reader, that my father, who lived in the north of England, did not think it right to fit me out at our country town, near to which we resided; but about a fortnight after the decision which I have referred to, he forwarded me to London on the outside of the coach, with my best suit of bottle-green and six shirts. To prevent mistakes I was booked in the way-bill "to be delivered to Mr. Thomas Handycock, No. 14, St. Clement's-lane—carriage paid." My parting with the family was very affecting; my mother cried bitterly; for, like all mothers, she liked the greatest fool which she had presented to my father, better than all the rest; my sisters cried because my mother cried; Tom roared for a short time louder than all the rest, having been chastised by my father for breaking his fourth window in that week;—during all which my father walked up and down the room with impatience, because he was kept from his dinner, and like all orthodox divines, he was tenacious of the only sensual enjoyment permitted to his cloth.

At last I tore myself away. I had blubbered till my eyes were so red and swollen, that the pupils were scarcely to be distinguished, and tears and dirt had veined my cheeks like the marble of the chimney-piece. My handkerchief was soaked through with wiping my eyes and blowing my nose, before the scene was over. My brother Tom, with a kindness which did honour to his heart, exchanged his for mine, saying with fraternal regard, "Here, Peter, take mine, it's as dry as a bone." But my father would not wait for a second handkerchief to perform its duty. He led me away through the hall, when having shaken hands with all the men, and kissed all the maids who stood in a row with their aprons to their eyes, I quitted my paternal roof.

The coachman accompanied me to the place from whence the coach was to start. Having seen me securely wedged between two fat old women, and having put my parcel inside, he



took his leave, and in a few minutes I was on my road to London.

I was too much depressed to take notice of any thing during my journey. When we arrived in London, they drove to the Blue Boar, (in a street the name of which I forget.) I had never seen or heard of such an animal, and certainly it did appear very formidable; its mouth was open, and teeth very large. What surprised me still more was to observe that its teeth and hoofs were of pure gold. Who knows, thought I, that in some of the strange countries which I am doomed to visit, I may fall in with and shoot one of these terrific monsters? with what haste shall I select those precious parts, and with what joy should I, on my return, pour them as an offering of filial affection into my mother's lap!—and then, as I thought of my mother, the tears again gushed into my eyes.

The coachman threw his whip to the ostler, and the reins upon the horses' backs; he then dismounted, and calling to me, "Now, young gentleman, I'se a-waiting," he put a ladder up for me to get down by; then turning to a porter, he said to him, "Bill, you must take this here young gem'man and that ere parcel to this here direction. Please to remember the coachman, Sir." I replied that I certainly would, if he wished it, and walked off with the porter; the coachman observing, as I went away, "Well, he is a fool—that's sartain." I arrived quite safe at St. Clement's-lane, when the porter received a shilling for his trouble from the maid who let me in, and I was shewn up into a parlour, where I found myself in company with Mrs. Handyclock.

Mrs. Handyclock was a little meagre woman, who did not speak very good English, and who appeared to me to employ the major part of her time in bawling out from the top of the stairs to the servants below. I never saw her either read a book or occupy herself with needle-work, during the whole time I was in the house. She had a large grey parrot, and I really cannot tell which screamed the worse of the two—but she was very civil and kind to me, and asked me ten times a-day when I had last heard of my grandfather, Lord Privilege. I observed that she always did so if any company happened to call in during my stay at her house. Before I had been there ten minutes, she told me that she "hadored sailors—they were the defendiours and preserviours of their kings and countries," and that "Mr. Handyclock would be home by four o'clock, and then we should go to dinner." Then she jumped off her chair to bawl to the cook from the head of the stairs—"Jemima, Jemima!—ve'll ha'e the viting biled instead of fried." "Ca'n't, marm," replied Jemima, "they be all hegged and crumbed, with their tails in their mouths." "Vell, then, never mind Jemima," replied the lady. "Don't put your finger into the par-

rot's cage, my love—he's hapt to be cross with strangers. Mr. Handycock will be home at four o'clock, and then we shall have our dinner. Are you fond of viting?"

As I was very anxious to see Mr. Handycock, and very anxious to have my dinner, I was not sorry to hear the clock on the stairs strike four; when Mrs. Handycock again jumped up and put her head over the bannisters, "Jemima, Jemima, it's four o'clock!" "I hear it, marm," replied the cook; and she gave the frying-pan a twist, which made the hissing and the smell come flying up into the parlour, and made me more hungry than ever.

Rap, tap, tap! "There's your master, Jemima," screamed the lady. "I hear him, marm," replied the cook. "Run down, my dear, and let Mr. Handycock in," said his wife.—"He'll be so surprised at seeing you open the door."

I ran down as Mrs. Handycock desired me, and opened the street-door. "Who the devil are you?" cried Mr. Handycock, in a gruff voice; a man about six feet high, dressed in blue cotton-net pantaloons and Hessian boots, with a black coat and waistcoat. I was a little rebuffed, I must own, but I replied that I was Mr. Simple. "And pray, Mr. Simple, what would your grandfather say, if he saw you now? I have servants in plenty to open my door, and the parlour is the proper place for young gentlemen."

"Law, Mr. Handycock," said his wife, from the top of the stairs, "how can you be so cross? I told him to open the door to surprise you." "And you have surprised me," replied he, "with your cursed folly."

While Mr. Handycock was rubbing his boots on the mat, I went up stairs again, rather mortified, I must own, as my father had told me that Mr. Handycock was his stock-broker, and would do all he could to make me comfortable; indeed, he had written to that effect in a letter, which my father showed to me before I left home. When I returned to the parlour, Mrs. Handycock whispered to me, "Never mind, my dear, it's only because there's something wrong on 'Change. Mr. Handycock is a *bear* just now." I thought so too, but I made no answer, for Mr. Handycock came up stairs, and walking with two strides from the door of the parlour to the fire-place, turned his back to it, and lifting up his coat-tails, began to whistle.

"Are you ready for your dinner, my dear?" said the lady, almost trembling.

"If the dinner is ready for me. I believe we usually dine at four," answered her husband gruffly.

"Jemima, Jemima, dish up! do you hear, Jemima?" "Yes, marm," replied the cook, "directly I've thickened the butter;" and Mrs. Handycock resumed her seat with, "Well, Mr. Simple, and how is your grandfather, Lord Privilege?" "He

is quite well, ma'am," answered I, for the fifteenth time at least. But dinner put an end to the silence which followed this remark. Mr. Handyclock lowered his coat-tails and walked down stairs, leaving his wife and me to follow at our leisure.

"Pray, ma'am," inquired I, as soon as he was out of hearing, "what is the matter with Mr. Handyclock, that he is so cross to you?"

"Vy, my dear, it is one of the misfortunes of matrimony, that ven the husband's put out, the wife is sure to have her share of it. Mr. Handyclock must have lost money on 'Change, and then he always comes home cross. Ven he vins, then he is as merry as a cricket."

"Are you people coming down to dinner?" roared Mr. Handyclock from below. "Yes, my dear," replied the lady, "I thought that you were washing your hands." We descended into the dining-room, where we found that Mr. Handyclock had already devoured two of the whittings, leaving only one on the dish for his wife and me. "Would you like a little bit of viting, my dear?" said the lady to me. "It's not worth halving," observed the gentleman, in a surly tone, taking the fish up with his own knife and fork, and putting it on his plate.

"Vell, I'm so glad you like them, my dear," replied the lady meekly; then turning to me, "there's some nice roast *veal* coming, my dear."

The veal made its appearance, and fortunately for us, Mr. Handyclock could not devour it all. He took the lion's share, nevertheless, cutting off all the brown, and then shoving the dish over to his wife to help herself and me. I had not put two pieces in my mouth before Mr. Handyclock desired me to get up and hand him the porter-pot, which stood on the sideboard. I thought that if it was not right for me to open a door, neither was it for me to wait at table—but I obeyed him without making a remark.

After dinner, Mr. Handyclock went down to the cellar for a bottle of wine. "O deary me," exclaimed his wife, "he must have lost a mint of money—we had better go up stairs and leave him alone; he'll be better after a bottle of port, perhaps." I was very glad to go away, and being very tired, I went to bed without any tea, for Mrs. Handyclock dared not venture to make it before her husband came up stairs.

The next morning Mr. Handyclock appeared to be in somewhat better humour. One of the linendrapers, who fit out cadets, &c. "on the shortest notice," was sent for, and orders given for my equipment, which Mr. Handyclock insisted should be ready on the day afterwards, or the articles would be left on his hands; adding that my place was already taken in the Portsmouth coach.

"Really, sir," observed the man, "I'm afraid—on such very short notice——"



"Your card says 'the shortest notice,'" rejoined Mr. Handycrack, with the confidence and authority of a man who is enabled to correct another by his own assertions. "If you do not choose to undertake the work, another will."

This silenced the man, who made his promise, took my measure and departed, and soon afterwards Mr. Handycrack also quitted the house.

What with my grandfather and the parrot, and Mrs. Handycrack wondering how much money her husband had lost, running to the head of the stairs and talking to the cook, the day passed away pretty well till four o'clock; when, as before, Mrs. Handycrack screamed, the cook screamed, the parrot screamed, and Mr. Handycrack rapped at the door, and was let in—but not by me. He ascended the stairs with three bounds, and coming into the parlour, cried, "Well, Nancy, my love, how are you?" Then stooping over her, "Give me a kiss, old girl. I'm as hungry as a hunter. Mr. Simple, how do you do? I hope you have passed the morning agreeably. I must wash my hands and change my boots, my love; I am not fit to sit down to table with you in this pickle. Well, Polly, how are you?"

"I'm glad you're hungry, my dear, I've such a nice dinner for you," replied the wife, all smiles. "Jemima, be quick and dish up—Mr. Handycrack is so hungry."

"Yes, marm," replied the cook; and Mrs. Handycrack followed her husband into his bed-room on the same floor, to assist him at his toilette.

"By Jove, Nancy, the *bulls* have been nicely taken in," said Mr. Handycrack, as we sat down to dinner.

"O, I am so glad!" replied his wife, giggling; and so I believe she was, but why I did not understand.

"Mr. Simple," said he, "will you allow me to offer you a little fish?"

"If you do not want it all yourself, sir," replied I politely.

Mrs. Handycrack frowned and shook her head at me, while her husband helped me. "My dove, a bit of fish?"

We both had our share to-day, and I never saw a man more polite than Mr. Handycrack. He joked with his wife, asked me to drink wine with him two or three times, talked about my grandfather; and, in short, we had a very pleasant evening.

The next morning all my clothes came home, but Mr. Handycrack, who still continued in good humour, said that he would not allow me to travel by night, that I should sleep there and set off the next morning, which I did at six o'clock, and before eight I had arrived at the Elephant and Castle, where we stopped for a quarter of an hour. I was looking at the painting representing this animal with a castle on its back; and assuming that of Alnwick, which I had seen, as a fair esti-



mate of the size and weight of that which he carried, was attempting to enlarge my ideas so as to comprehend the stupendous bulk of the elephant, when I observed a crowd assembled at the corner, and asking a gentleman who sat by me in a plaid cloak, whether there was not something very uncommon to attract so many people; he replied, "Not very, for it was only a drunken sailor."

I rose from my seat, which was on the hinder part of the coach, that I might see him, for it was a new sight to me, and excited my curiosity; when to my astonishment he staggered from the crowd, and swore that he'd go to Portsmouth. He climbed up by the wheel of the coach, and sat down by me. I believe that I stared at him very much, for he said to me, "What are you gaping at, you young sculping? Do you want to catch flies? or did you never see a chap half seas over before?"

I replied, "that I had never been at sea in my life, but that I was going."

"Well, then, you're like a young bear, all your sorrows to come—that's all, my hearty," replied he. "When you get on board, you'll find monkey's allowance—more kicks than halfpence. I say, you pewter carrier, bring us another pint of ale."

The waiter of the inn, who was attending the coach, brought out the ale, half of which the sailor drank, and the other half threw into the waiter's face, telling him that was his "allowance; and now," said he, "what's to pay?" The waiter, who looked very angry, but appeared too much afraid of the sailor to say any thing, answered fourpence; and the sailor pulled out a handful of bank notes, mixed up with gold, silver, and coppers, and was picking out the money to pay for his beer, when the coachman, who was impatient, drove off.

"There's cut and run," cried the sailor, thrusting all the money back into his breeches pocket. "That's what you'll larn to do, my joker, before you have been two cruizes to sea."

In the mean time, the gentleman in the plaid cloak, who was seated by me, smoked his cigar without saying a word. I commenced a conversation with him relative to my profession, and asked him whether it was not very difficult to learn. "Larn," cried the sailor interrupting us, "no; it may be difficult for such chaps as me before the mast to larn, but you, I presume, is a reefer, and they an't got much to larn, 'cause why, they pipeclays their weekly accounts, and walks up and down with their hands in their pockets. You must larn to chaw baccy, drink grog, and call the cat a beggar, and then you knows all a midshipman's expected to know now-a-days. Ar'n't I right, sir?" said the sailor, appealing to the gentleman in a plaid cloak. "I axes you, because I see you're a sailor by the cut

of your jib. Beg pardon, sir," continued he, touching his hat, "hope no offence."

"I am afraid that you have nearly hit the mark, my good fellow," replied the gentleman.

The drunken fellow then entered into conversation with him, stating that he had been paid off from the Audacious at Portsmouth, and had come up to London to spend his money with his messmates; but that yesterday he had discovered that a Jew at Portsmouth had sold him a seal as a gold seal, for fifteen shillings, which proved to be copper, and that he was going back to Portsmouth to give the Jew a couple of black eyes for his rascality, and that when he had done that, he was to return to his messmates, who had promised to drink success to the expedition at the Cock and Bottle, St. Martin's Lane, until he should return.

The gentleman in the plaid cloak commended him very much for his resolution; for he said that although the journey to and from Portsmouth would cost twice the value of a gold seal, yet that in the end it might be worth a *Jew's eye*. What he meant I did not comprehend.

Whenever the coach stopped, the sailor called for more ale, and always threw the remainder which he could not drink into the face of the man who brought it out for him, just as the coach was starting off, and then tossing the pewter pot on the ground for him to pick up. He became more tipsy every stage, and the last from Portsmouth, when he pulled out his money, he could find no silver, so he handed down a note, and desired the waiter to change it. The waiter crumpled it up and put it in his pocket, and then returned the sailor the change for a one pound note; but the gentleman in the plaid had observed that it was a five pound note which the sailor had given, and insisted upon the waiter producing it and giving the proper change. The sailor took his money, which the waiter handed to him, begging pardon for the mistake, although he coloured up very much at being detected. "I really beg your pardon," said he again, "it was quite a mistake;" whereupon the sailor threw the pewter pot at the waiter, saying, "I really beg your pardon, too,"—and with such force that it flattened upon the man's head, who fell senseless on the road. The coachman drove off, and I never heard whether the man was killed or not.

After the coach had driven off, the sailor eyed the gentleman in the plaid cloak for a minute or two, and then said, "When I first looked at you I took you for some officer in musti; but now, that I see that you look so sharp after the rhino, it's my idea that you're some poor devil of a Scotchman, mayhap second mate of a marchant vessel—there's half-a-crown for your services—I'd give you more, if I thought you would spend it."

The gentleman laughed and took the half-crown, which I

afterwards observed that he gave to a grey-headed beggar at the bottom of Portdown Hill. I inquired of him how soon we should be at Portsmouth; he answered that we were passing the lines; but I saw no lines, and I was ashamed to show my ignorance. He asked me what ship I was going to join. I could not recollect her name, but I told him it was painted on the outside of my chest, which was coming down by the waggon; all that I could recollect was that it was a French name.

"Have you no letter of introduction to the captain?" said he.

"Yes, I have," replied I; and I pulled out my pocket-book in which the letter was. "Captain Savage, H. M. ship *Diomedé*," continued I, reading to him.

To my surprise he very coolly proceeded to open the letter, which, when I perceived what he was doing, occasioned me immediately to snatch the letter from him, stating my opinion at the same time, that it was a breach of honour, and that in my opinion he was no gentleman.

"Just as you please, youngster," replied he. "Recollect, you have told me I am no gentleman."

He wrapped his plaid around him, and said no more; and I was not a little pleased at having silenced him by my resolute behaviour.

When we stopped, I inquired of the coachman which was the best inn. He answered, "that it was the Blue Postesses, where the midshipmen leave their chestesses, call for tea and toastesses, and sometimes forget to pay for their breakfastesses." He laughed when he said it, and I thought that he was joking with me; but he pointed out two large blue posts at the door next the coach-office, and told me that all the midshipmen resorted to that hotel. He then asked me to remember the coachman, which by this time I had found out implied that I was not to forget to give him a shilling, which I did, and then went into the inn. The coffee-room was full of midshipmen, and as I was anxious about my chest, I inquired of one of them if he knew when the waggon would come in.

"Do you expect your mother by it?" replied he.

"O no! but I expect my uniforms—I only wear these bottle-greens until they come."

"And pray what ship are you going to join?"

"The *Die-a-maid*—Captain Thomas Kirkwall Savage."

"The *Diomedé*—I say, Robinson, a'n't that the frigate in which the midshipmen had four dozen a-piece for not having pipe-clayed their weekly accounts on the Saturday?"

"To be sure it is," replied the other; "why the captain gave a youngster five dozen the other day for wearing a scarlet watch-ribbon."



"He's the greatest Tartar in the service," continued the other; "he flogged the whole starboard watch the last time that he was on a cruize, because the ship would only sail nine knots upon a bowling."

"O dear!" said I, "then I'm very sorry that I'm going to join him."

"'Pon my soul I pity you; you'll be fagged to death; for there's only three midshipmen in the ship now—all the rest ran away. Didn't they, Robinson?"

"There's only two left now—for poor Matthews died of fatigue. He was worked all day, and kept watch all night for six weeks, and one morning he was found dead upon his chest."

"God bless my soul!" cried I, "and yet on shore they say he is such a kind man to his midshipmen."

"Yes," replied Robinson, "he spreads that report every where. Now, observe, when you first call upon him, and report your having come to join his ship, he'll tell you that he is very happy to see you, and that he hopes your family are well, —then he'll recommend you to go on board and learn your duty. After that, stand clear. Now recollect what I have said, and see if it does not prove true. Come sit down with us and take a glass of grog, it will keep your spirits up."

These midshipmen told me so much about my captain, and the horrid cruelties which he had practised, that I had some doubts whether I had not better set off home again. When I asked their opinion, they said that if I did I should be taken up as a deserter and hanged; that my best plan was to beg his acceptance of a few gallons of rum, for he was very fond of grog, and that then I might perhaps be in his good graces, as long as the rum might last.

I am sorry to state that the midshipmen made me very tipsy that evening. I don't recollect being put to bed, but I found myself there the next morning with a dreadful head-ache, and a very confused recollection of what had passed. I was very much shocked at my having so soon forgotten the injunctions of my parents, and was making vows never to be so foolish again, when in came the midshipman who had been so kind to me the night before. "Come, Mr. Bottlegreen," he bawled out, alluding I suppose to the colour of my clothes, "rouse and bitt. There's the captain's coxswain waiting for you below. By the powers, you're in a pretty scrape for what you did last night!"

"Did last night!" replied I, astonished. "Why does the captain know that I was tipsy?"

"I think you took devilish good care to let him know it when you were at the theatre."

"At the theatre! Was I at the theatre?"

"To be sure you were. You would go, do all we could to prevent you, though you were as drunk as David's sow. Your captain was there with the admiral's daughters. You called him a tyrant, and snapped your fingers at him. Why, don't you recollect? You told him that you did not care a fig for him."

"O dear! O dear! what shall I do? what shall I do?" cried I. "My mother cautioned me so about drinking and bad company."

"Bad company, you whelp—what do you mean by that?"

"O I did not particularly refer to you."

"I should hope not! However I recommend you as a friend to go to the George Inn as fast as you can, and see your captain, for the longer you stay away, the worse it will be for you. —At all events, it will be decided whether he receives you or not. It is fortunate for you that you are not on the ship's books. Come be quick, the coxswain is gone back." "Not on the ship's books," replied I, sorrowfully. Now I recollect there was a letter from the captain to my father, stating that he had put me on the books.

"Upon my honour, I'm sorry—very sorry indeed," replied the midshipman—and he quitted the room, looking as grave as if the misfortune had happened to himself. I got up with a heavy head, and heavier heart, and as soon as I was dressed, I asked the way to the George Inn. I took my letter of introduction with me, although I was afraid it would be of little service. When I arrived I asked, with a trembling voice, whether Captain Thomas Kirkwall Savage of H. M. ship *Diomedé* was staying there. The waiter replied, that he was at breakfast with Captain Courtney, but that he would take up my name. I gave it to him, and in a minute the waiter returned and desired that I would walk up. O how my heart beat—I never was so frightened—I thought I should have dropped on the stairs. Twice I attempted to walk into the room, and each time my legs failed me: at last, I wiped the perspiration from my forehead, and with a desperate effort I went into the room.

"Mr. Simple, I am glad to see you," said a voice. I had held my head down, for I was afraid to look at him, but the voice was so kind, that I mustered up courage; and when I did look up, there sat, with his uniform and epaulets, and his sword by his side, the passenger in the plaid cloak, who wanted to open my letter, and who I had told to his face that he was *no gentleman*.

I thought I should have died as the other midshipman did upon his chest. I was just sinking down on my knees to beg for mercy, when the captain perceiving my confusion, burst out into a laugh and said, "So you know me again, Mr. Simple? Well, don't be alarmed, you did your duty in not permitting

me to open the letter, supposing me, as you did, to be some other person, and you were perfectly right under that supposition, to tell me that I was not a gentleman. I give you credit for your conduct. Now sit down and take some breakfast."

"Captain Courtney," said he to the other captain, who was at the table, "this is one of my youngsters just entering the service. We were passengers yesterday by the same coach." He then told him the circumstance which occurred, at which they laughed heartily.

I now recovered my spirits a little—but still there was the affair at the theatre, and I thought that perhaps he did not recognize me. I was, however, soon relieved from my anxiety by the other captain inquiring, "Were you at the theatre last night, Savage?"

"No; I dined at the admirals! there's no getting away from those girls, they are so pleasant."

"I rather think you are a little — *taken* in that quarter."

"No, on my word! I might be if I had time to discover which I liked best; but my ship is at present my wife, and the only wife I intend to have until I am laid on the shelf."

Well, thought I, if he was not at the theatre, it could not have been him that I insulted. Now if I can only give him the rum and make friends with him.

"Pray, Mr. Simple, how are your father and mother?" said the captain.

"Very well, I thank you, sir, and desire me to present their compliments."

"I am obliged to them. Now I think the sooner you go on board and learn your duty the better." (Just what the midshipman told me—the very words, thought I—then it's all true—and I began to tremble again.)

"I have a little advice to offer you," continued the captain. "In the first place, obey your superior officers without hesitation; it is for me, not you, to decide whether an order is unjust or not. In the next place, never swear or drink spirits. The first is immoral and ungentlemanlike, the second is a vile habit which will grow upon you. I never touch spirits myself, and I expect that my young gentlemen will refrain from it also. Now you may go, and as soon as your uniforms arrive, you will repair on board. In the mean time, as I had some little insight into your character when we travelled together, let me recommend you not to be too intimate at first sight with those you meet, or you may be led into indiscretions. Good morning."

I quitted the room with a low bow, glad to have surmounted so easily what appeared to be a chaos of difficulty; but my mind was confused with the testimony of the midshipman, so much at variance with the language and behaviour of the cap-



tain. When I arrived at the Blue Posts, I found all the midshipmen in the coffee-room, and I repeated to them all that had passed. When I had finished, they burst out laughing, and said that they had only been joking with me. "Well," said I to the one who had called me up in the morning, "you may call it joking, but I call it lying."

"Pray, Mr. Bottlegreen, do you refer to me?"

"Yes, I do," replied I.

"Then, sir, as a gentleman, I demand satisfaction. Slugs in a saw-pit. Death before dishonour, d——e."

"I shall not refuse you," replied I, "although I had rather not fight a duel; my father cautioned me on the subject, desiring me, if possible, to avoid it, as it was flying in the face of my creator; but aware that I must uphold my character as an officer, he left me to my own discretion, should I ever be so unfortunate as to be in such a dilemma."

"Well, we don't want one of your father's sermons at second hand," replied the midshipman, (for I had told them that my father was a clergyman,) "the plain question is, will you fight, or will you not?"

"Could not the affair be arranged otherwise?" interrupted another. "Will not Mr. Bottlegreen retract?"

"My name is Simple, sir, and not Bottlegreen," replied I; "and as he did tell a falsehood, I will not retract."

"Then the affair must go on," said the midshipman. "Robinson, you will oblige me by acting as my second."

"It's an unpleasant business," replied the other, "you are so good a shot: but as you request it, I shall not refuse. Mr. Simple is not, I believe, provided with a friend."

"Yes, he is," replied another of the midshipmen. "He is a spunky fellow, and I'll be his second."

It was then arranged that we should meet the next morning with pistols. I considered that as an officer and a gentleman, I could not well refuse, but I was very unhappy. Not three days left to my own guidance, and I had become intoxicated, and was now to fight a duel. I went up into my room and wrote a long letter to my mother, inclosing a lock of my hair; and having shed a few tears at the idea of how sorry she would be if I were killed, I borrowed a bible of the waiter, and read it during the remainder of the day.

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NAVAL ANECDOTE.—Tom Smith, a sailor on board one of our men of war, was so unfortunate as to have a club foot. Jack Wilson, another sailor on board the same vessel, had a hair lip, which did not much improve his physiognomy. One day as Smith was going up the fore rigging, Jack, who was sitting below spinning a yarn, bawled out—"I say, Tom, come down and dance us a jig." "So I will," replied Tom, "if you'll whistle a tune for me."

### MILITARY AND NAVAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

It has afforded us no little gratification to find that our "Hints for a Military and Naval Provident Society," have attracted that sort of attention to the subject, which is likely to result in something permanently useful to the two services, if not in the full accomplishment of our plan. Several of our most respectable brother-editors have thought our "Hints"—contained in the July number of the Military and Naval Magazine—worth an approving notice, and preliminary movements have been made at one of the outposts, which we have no doubt will soon be followed by a general action on the subject. The following communication, to which our article has given rise, indicates a decisive disposition to act with promptitude, and contains a formal pledge of co-operation. But before we lay it before our readers, it may not be amiss to correct some errors into which the officers of "Hancock Barracks" have fallen, in their construction of our suggestions, probably from a too hasty perusal of the article, and to say a few words in reply to their proposed amendments to some of the fundamental regulations we have recommended. The officers say: "It is also suggested as an amendment to the project for a Provident Society, that each subscriber pay to the fund, at once, the sum required to be paid in four annual instalments, with the addition of the interest that would accrue on those sums as proposed in the Military and Naval Magazine, and also that the practical results of the plan should be tested as far as possible at once; for if there is to be any benefit to the Army, it is better that the advantages should be immediately enjoyed, than that they be postponed for five years."

By referring to the article in our July number, pp. 283—4, it will be seen that we did not propose to divide the sum to be subscribed into "four annual instalments," but, on the contrary, recommend that every subscriber should "pay into the hands of a Cashier or Treasurer, *whenever the Society shall be organized*, the amount of *one month's pay*, exclusive of rations, and *annually thereafter*, one fourth of a month's pay." The sums destined to the creation of a capital fund were necessarily required to be paid "at once," as all the calculations were founded upon the operation of compound interest, the progressive augmentation of which, for five years, would enable the Society, by a small individual contribution in the first instance, to become possessed of a capital which we conceived it would be wholly out of their power to raise by original subscription. There is scarcely an officer who may not conveniently spare a month's pay, having the actual means of subsistence left him in the rations; while there are, perhaps, very few, who would be able to spare the amount to which that small sum would be increased, by the productive effect of compound interest.

The proposition, "that the practical results of the plan should be tested as far as possible *at once*," seems to us to be scarcely compatible with the nature of a Provident Society. If we correctly understand what is meant by *testing the practical results of the plan at once*, it is that the Society shall take upon itself to issue annuities coetaneously with its own existence—that it shall begin to pay out, from the moment its fund is paid in. This would be to destroy its only chance of perpetuity, and to confine its useful-

ness within the narrowest limits: it would be, in truth, to *kill the goose* before she had had time even to *make her nest*. Societies, like individuals, if they would desire to prosper, must regulate their expenditures by their income; they must live upon the *produce* of their capital, and not upon the capital itself. It would be too burthensome upon any class of the community, and, we should think, wholly impracticable to a class whose income is fixed and limited, either to renew its capital by repeated assessments, or to fix the rate of annual subscription so high as to render the productive employment of a capital unnecessary. If a capital be necessary at all, it must be necessary not only to preserve that capital untouched, but to employ it in the mode that shall render it most productive.

The *postponement* of the application of the benefits to be derived from such a Society as we have recommended, for five years, seemed to be the only alternative to requiring an amount of individual contribution in the first instance, which might have operated as a bar to general acquiescence in the plan. It gives time for the growth of the capital by rapid and sure means; and it places it within the power of every officer, in either service, to leave a certain independence to his family.

We are pleased with the suggestion, that it may be well to extend the grant of annuities "to such officers as, from age or long continued ill health, may feel disposed to retire from the service by a resignation of their commissions." Such a principle, we believe, has place in most of the Societies that have been formed in the two services of Great Britain, and if found useful there, where officers are permitted to sell their commissions, it would seem to be much more necessary in a service where no such traffic is authorized. It does not appear to us, however, that this extension of the annuities "would require a greater annual instalment than that contemplated" in our plan. A reference to our calculations, p. 283, will show that a large surplus—the amount of which would be annually increased in the same proportion with the capital, by the operation of compound interest—would be left after paying the four classes of annuities there enumerated. But these are considerations which may well be left to the judgment of the committee proposed to be appointed.

Since the publication of our July number, we have been informed that an association has been recently organized by the naval officers on the Boston station, similar, in some of its purposes, to the united Society we have proposed, and that it has received a charter from the state of Massachusetts. Should our efforts, therefore, fail to induce a general and united action, the laudable movement of the officers at Hancock Barracks, we are glad to find, need not be wholly lost, since there can be no doubt the Massachusetts Society will be pleased to receive them on their original terms of association. We trust it is hardly necessary to add, that it will give us great pleasure to be the medium of intercommunication.

#### FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

The officers stationed at the Post of Hancock Barracks, deeply sensible of the importance of a Provident Society, having in view the permanent support of the families of those engaged in the military service of the country, and forcibly struck with the general details of a plan for such Society,



suggested by "Hints for a Military and Naval Provident Society," published in Vol. 1, No. 5, of the Military and Naval Magazine of the United States, did convene at the Library of the Post, on the 17th July, 1833, and unanimously determined that they would join an association on the plan suggested in that Magazine, or a plan similar thereto.

Aware of the necessity of making some beginning, in order to draw to the subject the attention of others equally interested in it, they, without hesitation, pledge themselves to join their brethren of the army in an association, having for its object the formation of a Provident Society; and, if it be thought advisable to invite the officers of the naval branch of the service to join in one common Society, they will with pleasure extend to them the same pledge. The pledge now made is thus qualified, because it is thought, not having at hand the means of an interchange of sentiment with them on this interesting subject, it may be better to leave a junction of the interests of both branches of service, in a matter of this kind, to future discussion, or to the discretion of such committee as may hereafter be appointed to frame a constitution or regulations for the government of a Society, and a petition to Congress for an act of incorporation of it.

They suggest, however, as a hint if not as an amendment to the "Hints" contained in the Magazine above alluded to, that it may be deemed expedient to introduce a principle into the code of a Society that shall provide for an annuity to be granted to such officers as, from age or long continued ill health, may feel disposed to retire from the service by a resignation of their commissions. The introduction of such a principle into the operations of a Society, would require a greater annual instalment than that contemplated by the "Hints" above alluded to. It is proposed that the details involved by this proposition be left, also, to the consideration of the committee to be appointed, as above suggested. It is also suggested as an amendment to the project for a Provident Society, that each subscriber pay to the fund, at once, the sum required to be paid in four annual instalments, with the addition of the interest that would accrue on those sums as proposed in the Military and Naval Magazine, and also that the practical results of the plan should be tested as far as possible at once; for if there is to be any benefit to the army, it is better that the advantages should immediately be enjoyed, than that they be postponed for five years—the remoteness of that period would, it is thought, hinder many from becoming subscribers who, if the advantage was immediate, would willingly contribute to the funds.

We earnestly invite the attention of our brother officers to this subject, and request them to communicate their views to us, or the Editor of the Military and Naval Magazine—and also invite them to make a pledge similar to this, to be transmitted to us or that Editor. Should a sufficient number of officers communicate the pledge requested, a committee, to consist of a delegate from each Post or Station may be raised by ballot of those interested, to proceed at once in the formation of the Society, and draw up a proper petition to Congress for an act of incorporation.

N. S. CLARKE, Maj. U. S. A.

G. DEARBORN, Captain.

T. STANIFORD, Captain 2d Infantry.

B. A. BOYNTON, Captain 2d Infantry.

S. L. RUSSELL, Lieutenant 2d Infantry.

T. MORRIS, Lieutenant 2d Infantry.

H. DAY, Lieutenant 2d Infantry.

JA'S M. HILL, Lieutenant 2d Infantry.

GEO. W. PATTEN, Lieutenant 2d Infantry.

E. G. EASTMAN, Lieutenant 2d Infantry.

## MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

Gov. CASS, Secretary of War, after leaving the President of the United States at Concord, N. H. made an excursion to Montreal and Quebec, L. C., proceeded thence to Detroit, and returned to Washington on the 6th Aug.

Major Gen. MACOMB returned to Washington from Old Point Comfort, via Richmond, on the 4th August.

Gen. WOOL, who was appointed by the War Department to investigate the affairs of the U. S. Armory at Springfield, has accomplished the objects of his commission, to the entire satisfaction, it is said, of all the parties concerned. His duties related, principally, to the wages of Armorers, and tho' he was not authorized to advance the prices of labor, he has succeeded in equalizing them more equitably among the different departments of the establishment. The Armorers are said to be entirely pleased with the adjustment, and have communicated to Gen. W. an expression of their satisfaction.

A detachment of United States' Dragoons, under command of Lieuts. D. PERKINS and C. C. DAVIS, arrived at St. Louis, Mo. on Sunday, August 4, in the steam boat Peoria, from the Illinois River, and immediately proceeded to Jefferson Barracks. They number seventy-one men, recruited at, and mostly of, the city of New York. They are said to be fine looking, intelligent young men, of respectable trades and professions in the city from whence they came; and must add respectability to the army, and reflect credit upon the officers commanding.

The detachment was about 25 days in performing the trip from New York, via Buffalo and Chicago, to St. Louis, and have reached their place of destination in good health, notwithstanding the unfavorable time at which they travelled.

U. S. DRAGOONS.—Capt. E. V. SUMNER's corps of U. S. Dragoons, or Rangers, destined for the Indian service, arrived at Buffalo, on Saturday, August 3, and left on Sunday morning in the steam boat Uncle Sam. They are fine looking raw recruits, all New Yorkers, selected by Capt. S. himself from the northern and western counties of the State, within the age of 25 years, and, as nearly as possible 5 feet 8 inches in height. All possessing a good English education, and of strictly correct habits. Such youths, with such a commander, who permits the performance of no menial service from any member of his detachment, and fares as they fare, cannot fail to prove useful, and become an ornament to the service.

Such a corps, or rather such materials embodied in a corps, must form a new era in our service. They have business character, the dignity of men, education, and all that is requisite to form useful citizens; and when their three years of time shall have expired, they will become settlers upon the soil they now march to defend, forming an anomaly in the character of frontier inhabitants.

## FROM FORT GIBSON.—NATCHEZ, JULY 27.

*Extract of a letter to a gentleman of this place, from Fort Gibson, dated 15th June, 1833.*

"Three companies of Regulars and three of Rangers, are out in the prairies, under the command of Col. Many. The health here is good, but we apprehend it will not continue, as the Arkansas, Neosho, and Verdigrise, have been higher than they ever were known before; several houses were carried away from this place; the bake-house among the number. Lieut. Carter's quarters were in danger, and he lost some of his property. Col. Arbuckle has met with some loss on his farm below Fort Smith, probably near \$4,000. Dr. McGee, in the same neighborhood, lost every thing. On the Verdigrise, four and a half miles distant, Chouteau & Love lost their

trading houses and much of their merchandise. Gen. Campbell lost a large amount of Indian property, about 12,000 dollars worth. In short, it will be difficult to estimate the extent of injury done."

**COURT MARTIAL.**—A Court Martial has been assembled at Mackinac, for the trial of Major William Whistler, of the 2d regiment of Infantry.—Gen. Brady was President, and Lieut. Backus Judge Advocate. Colonels Brooks and Fanning, Majors Pierce, Mason, and Heileman, and Captain Whiting, members of the Court.

**FORT ADAMS.**—The completion of this important work, at Newport, R. I. is now progressing with great rapidity. Upwards of 400 laborers are now daily employed, and the monthly payments for the labor alone, exceed the sum of twelve thousand dollars.

## NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

**ANNUAL VISIT TO THE NORTHERN NAVAL STATIONS.**—The Secretary of the Navy, accompanied by the Commissioners of the Navy, and C. W. Goldsborough, Esq. their Secretary, left Washington on Saturday, August 3d.

They visited the several Navy Yards as follows:—

At Philadelphia, on Monday, August 5.

At New York, on Wednesday, August 7. Also the Ships Delaware and St. Louis.

At Boston, on Saturday, August 10.

They returned to Washington on Monday, August 26th.

The Common Council of the City of New York invited the officers of the U. S. Ships Delaware and St. Louis to an entertainment, on Monday, August 12th. They assembled at the City Hall, and were thence conveyed to the public buildings at Bellevue, after examining which, they passed over in boats to Blackwell's Island, where, having viewed the new Penitentiary, they dined under an arbor prepared for the occasion.

Lieut. L. N. CARTER, of the Marine Corps, arrived at New York, on the 10th August, a passenger in the ship Montreal, from London.

Lieut. C. E. CROWLEY, of the Navy, arrived at New York, on the 14th August, passenger in the brig Emerald, from Havana.

Lieut. W. M. GLENDY, of the Navy, arrived at Baltimore, on the 30th July, a passenger in the brig Ann Wayne, from Valparaiso.

The ship Vandalia has been taken into the Dry Dock at Gosport, for examination; repaired and dropped down to Hampton Roads.

The ship of the line Delaware, Captain Ballard, left Hampton Roads on Tuesday, July 30th, and arrived at New York on Saturday, the 3d August. She was towed up by the steam boats Rufus King and Hercules, and anchored in the North River. During her short stay in the harbor of New York, she was visited and admired by crowds of ladies and gentlemen.

The Delaware sailed from New York on Wednesday, August 14, bound for Cherbourg, where she will land Mr. Livingston and suite; and proceed thence to the Mediterranean.

**Passengers to Cherbourg.**—The Hon. EDWARD LIVINGSTON, Minister Plenipotentiary to France, and his lady; EDWARD P. BARTON, Esq. Secretary of Legation, and his lady and servants; Smith Thompson Van Buren, attached to the Legation.



List of officers.—HENRY E. BALLARD, Esq. *Commander*.  
*Lieutenants*.—1st. Thos. W. Wyman; 2d. Franklin Buchanan; 3d. Geo. A. Magruder; 4th. Wm. Seton; 5th. Thos. O. Selfridge; 6th. Sidney Smith Lee; 7th. Albert E. Downes; 8th. Jas. L. Lardner; 9th. Andrew H. Foot; 10th. Junius J. Boyle.

*Surgeon*.—Stephen Rapalje. *Purser*.—Francis A. Thornton.

*Lieutenants of Marines*.—Robert Macomber, 1st; William E. Stark, 2d. William H. Young, 3d.

*Assistant Surgeons*.—J. C. Spencer, L. Wolfley, Napoleon C. Barrabino.

*Passed Midshipmen*.—Timothy A. Hunt, James S. Palmer, John P. Gillis, Stephen T. Gillet, William A. Wurts, Oliver S. Glisson.

*Midshipmen*.—Spotswood A. Washington, James Madison Frailey, Dominick Lynch, Jr. Thos. W. Magruder, Alfred Bache, Matthew S. Pitcher, Peter U. Murphy, Richard S. Wainwright, A. F. V. Gray, Wm. H. B. Johnson, Henry Eld, Jr. Ferdinand Pepin, James F. Armstrong, Francis A. Neville, Henry Richardson, John T. McDonald, Wm. A. Wayne, Jno. Contee, Charles R. Howard, Miles Donaldson, Wm. Chipman, Maxwell Woodhull, Wm. E. Leroy, Wm. B. Beverly, John J. X. Randolph.

*Captain's Clerk*.—Chas. Goldsborough. *School Master*.—Dana.

*Sailing Masters*.—Francis W. Moores, 1st; Robert B. Hitchcock, 2d.

*Gunner*.—Asa Curtis. *Boatswain*.—John Ring. *Carpenter*.—John Green. *Sailmaker*.—James Davis.

*Passengers*.—Passed Midshipmen—William C. Farrar, Wm. S. Young, Wm. P. Jones, Robert E. Johnston, Wm. M. Walker.

The schr. Shark will sail from Norfolk for the Mediterranean early in September, and presents a favorable opportunity for the conveyance of letters, &c. to officers on that station.

Capt. T. M. Newell has been ordered to the command of the ship St. Louis, preparing at New York, for another cruise in the West Indies.

A patent has been taken out by Lieut. T. R. Gedney, of the Navy, for an improved mode of raising vessels from the water upon a rail way, for the purpose of repairs. Com. Rodgers, and Mr. Humphreys, the chief Naval Constructor at Washington, have both expressed a favorable opinion of the invention.

List of officers attached to the St. Louis, arrived at New York on the 22d July, from the West Indies.—John T. Newton, *Commander*; *Lieuts*. Chas. T. Platt, E. C. Rutledge, Joseph Cutts, John Pope, and Lloyd B. Newell; *Purser*, G. C. Cooper; *Surgeon*, A. A. Ade; *Acting Sailing Master*, H. M. Houston; *Midshipmen*, Samuel Garrison, J. A. Maffit, H. H. Stockton, Montgomery Hunt, A. L. Case, B. F. Sands, F. Oakes, J. D. Todd, W. E. Newton, C. H. Cotton, W. W. Smith, James A. Doyle, J. Hall, C. W. Elliott, and R. Deacon; *School Master*, W. Tenny; *Captain's Clerk*, J. J. Newton; *Boatswain*, J. Ball; *Acting Gunner*, Francis Gardiner; *Acting Carpenter*, Elliott Green.

MEDITERRANEAN.—The Editors of the New York Gazette have received a letter, dated on board the frigate United States, at Toulon, from which the following is an extract:

FRIGATE UNITED STATES, }  
 Toulon, April 24, 1833. }

"We sailed from Mahon on the 24th ult. and arrived here on the 16th. and not having a clean bill of Health, we are quarantined for ten days. It is said we shall spend part of the summer on the coast of Italy, and the remainder in the Archipelago. From Toulon, we shall probably go to Genoa, thence to Leghorn, Naples, and Palermo, and stop at each place probably two or three weeks. We sailed from Mahon in company with the Constellation and John Adams, the latter parted company shortly after leaving the Island, bound to Smyrna. The Constellation is still with us, and will bear us company until we sail for Smyrna, where she will leave us to cruise on the coast of Africa."

**WEST INDIES.**—Extract from a letter of Lieut. Joseph Smoot, commanding *Schr. Grampus*, to Commodore John D. Henley, Commander of the West India Squadron, dated at

PENSACOLA, 20TH JULY, 1833.

I have the honor to report my arrival at this anchorage this morning, agreeably to your instructions of the 17th of January. I have executed them most strictly as far as circumstances would admit: I have visited the following windward and leeward islands: Barbadoes, St. Lucia, Dominica, Martinique, Gaudaloupe, Antigua, St. Christophers, St. Croix, St. Thomas, Porto Rico, St. Domingo, and Grand Caymans, without hearing of the two vessels of which you furnished me a description from the Department; and from every information I could obtain from the American Consuls and respectable American merchants resident in those islands, no pirates had been heard of, and they had reason to believe that none at this time exist. They are extremely anxious that our cruizers should frequently be seen, to intimidate those wretches who would avail themselves of the absence of our vessels of war.

The *Grampus* can be got ready for sea in ten or twelve days, or sooner if necessary. The general good health which we have enjoyed, is no doubt owing to the thorough cleansing of her timbers at Norfolk of every particle of filth.

I have been handed strong documents from merchants and others in Mexico; and I conceive the portion of the squadron left can be most actively employed on that coast: I shall therefore direct Lieut. Taylor to sail the most early opportunity, say Wednesday next; and I shall follow immediately, the repairs, &c. notwithstanding.

*Schr. Porpoise*, Lieut. W. Taylor, sailed from Pensacola for Coast of Mexico, on the 24th July.

**BRAZIL.**—Extract of a letter from Master Commandant John P. Zantzing, of the U. S. ship *Natchez*, at anchor off Pernambuco, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated July 8th, 1833.

"I have the honor to inform you of the arrival of the *Natchez* at this place, after a passage of thirty-one days. It is my intention to leave here to-morrow evening, and proceed to Bahia, St. Salvador, and join the squadron, being informed that Commodore Woolsey is at that place.

It affords me pleasure to state that the officers and crew continue healthy."

*Ship Lexington*, Capt. McKeever, bearing the broad pendant of Com. Woolsey, at Bahia on the 16th May; and at Rio on the 13th July.

The ship *Warren*, Capt. Cooper, left Montevideo on the 17th June for Buenos Ayres, to afford protection, if necessary, to American citizens and property. Some extraordinary movement was anticipated.

The *Natchez* sailed on the 12th July for the River Plate, all well, to relieve the *Warren*.

The *schr. Boxer*, Lieut. Com'g Shields, was at Batavia 17th April, all well, waiting the arrival of the *Peacock*.

**PACIFIC.**—The *Potomac* was left at Valparaiso, on the 29th April, to sail soon for Callao; all well on board. The *Falmouth*, Capt. Gregory, sailed from Payta, on the 20th March, for Callao.

The *Dolphin*, Lieut. Long, arrived at Valparaiso on the 26th April, all well, and would sail again soon for Callao.

A serious disaster had nigh befallen the *Independence 74*, which is lying in the stream at the Navy Yard in Charlestown, on Wednesday, Aug. 14. Early in the morning Com. Elliott went on board to give directions about having the ship well moored against the arrival of the equinoctial gales, and while on deck it seemed to him that she lurched more than usual. He ordered the pumps to be tried, which being done, it was ascertained that she had four feet of water in her hold. Some rogue had broken off the brass cock fixed on one of her sides to let in salt water occasionally, and the ship was filling rapidly. But for the timely discovery she must have sunk during the afternoon or night, in a depth of fifty feet of water.

## MARRIAGES.

At the Eleutheran Mills, Del. on the 27th June, Lieut. S. F. DUPONT, of the U. S. Navy, to SOPHIA M. daughter of E. J. DUPONT, Esq.

In Philadelphia, on the 3d July, Lt. N. S. HARRIS, of the Army, to ELIZABETH C. daughter of J. ANDREWS, Esq.

At Parish of Rapide, Lou. on the 2d June, Capt. R. DELAFIELD, of the U. S. Corps of Engineers, to Miss H. COVINGTON.

In East Bloomfield, N. Y. on the 4th July, Lieut. E. B. BIRDSALL, of the U. S. Army, to Miss M. WILCOX, daughter of Dr. WILCOX, of the former place.

In Baltimore, on the 18th June, Lt. J. CASSIN, U. S. Navy, of Georgetown, D. C. to MARY A. daughter of R. HICKLEY, Esq. of Baltimore.

In Brooklyn, N. Y. on the 25th July, A. LOTT, to Miss S. BUTLER, adopted daughter of S. BUTLER, Esq. of the Navy.

In Newark, N. J. on the 6th August, Lt. H. EAGLE, of the Navy, to MINERVA, daughter of S. SMITH, Esq.

In Portsmouth, Va. on the 6th August, Mr. G. GRAY, of the Navy, to Miss ELIZA, eldest daughter of Mr. WM. DYSON.

In Richmond, Va. on the 1st August, Mid. G. M. McCREERY, of the Navy, to Miss MATILDA WORTH.

## DEATHS.

In Philadelphia, on the 4th July, Dr. R. H. K. SIMS, Assistant Surgeon U. S. Navy.

At Middletown, Conn. CATHARINE wife of Lt. C. H. JACKSON, U. S. Navy, and second daughter of Mrs. SHEDDON, formerly of Washington.

Drowned at New Castle, Del. on the evening of the 12th July, JOHN H. MAULSBY, Midshipman U. S. Navy, and son of I. D. MAULSBY, Esq. of Harford, Co. Md. The deceased, with one or two other individuals, went into the river to bathe, and while engaged repeatedly in diving, was observed to be struggling in the water, but before assistance could be rendered, life was extinct. He was formerly attached to the Revenue Cutter at New Castle, and recently passed examination for promotion at Baltimore.

At Zacatecas, in Mexico, of bilious fever, after an illness of three weeks, Dr. J. M. S. O'CONWAY, formerly Surgeon of the U. S. Navy.

In Florence, Alabama, Gen. J. COFFEE, a distinguished Militia officer during the last war.

At New Orleans, on 2d May, after six hours illness of Cholera, in the 34th year of his age, Dr. J. S. HEPBURN, late of the U. S. Army.

At Alexandria, D. C. on the 21st of June, Mrs. A. GORDON, wife of Lt. A. G. GORDON, of the U. S. Navy.

At Philadelphia, on the 27th July, Commodore W. BAINBRIDGE, in the 60th year of his age, one of the oldest captains in the Navy.

At Fort Mitchell, Ala. on the 15th July, in the 38th year of her age, Mrs. E. MCINTOSH, wife of Major J. S. MCINTOSH, of the U. S. Army.

At Key West, Florida, on the 10th July, J. W. WILLIS, Inspector of the Revenue, eldest son of BYRD C. WILLIS, Esq. Navy Agent at Pensacola. Mr. W. was formerly a midshipman in the Navy.

At Portsmouth, N. H. JONATHAN, aged 14, eldest son of the late Dr. R. L. THORN, Surgeon in the Navy.

At Fort Preble, Portland Harbor, on the 9th August, Mrs. L. DAY, aged 81, mother of Dr. S. DAY, of the U. S. Army.

At Fortress Monroe, on the 27th July, R. W. STENNETT, Sergeant Major of the Military School of Practice. In the performance of his duties as a soldier, he was most exemplary.

At Philadelphia, on the 28th July, W. HITCHCOCK, youngest son of Lt. J. G. REYNOLDS, of the Marine Corps.

At Leesburg, Va. on the 9th July, in the 4th year of her age, PAULINA C. daughter of Col. A. HENDERSON, Commandant of the U. S. Marine Corps.

In Louisville, Ken. SILAS TALBOT, aged 60, formerly a Post Captain in the Navy.

At sea, on the 16th April, on his passage home from the Pacific, Dr. WM. MILNOR, Assistant Surgeon U. S. Navy.

In Westmoreland Co. Va. on the 14th August, JOHN H. BELL, Master Commandant U. S. Navy.

In King George Co. Va. on the 14th August, WILLIAM F. HOOE, passed Midshipman U. S. Navy.

At Fort Columbus, New York Harbor, on the 12th August, ELIZABETH ARMSTRONG, 7 months, youngest daughter of Capt. GEORGE W. GARDNER, of the Army.



## METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 1833.

Kept at the Depot of Naval Instruments, Washington City.

Moon's Phases.	Day.	Barometer.	Temperature. Max. Min.	Weather.	Wind. Direction. Force.	Rain.	REMARKS.
Full M.	Mon. 1	30.157	80	clear,	S & E mod'rate		Mean height of Barometer, during the month, In. 30.142 Mean maximum Thermometer, ° 81.4 Mean minimum " ° 72.8 Quantity of Rain fallen, In. 5.39
	Tues. 2	30.040	82	clear, cloudy, clear,	S & E strong		
	Wed. 3	29.970	76	clear, rain, clear,	N & W light	2.20	
	Thur. 4	30.164	73	clear,	N & W mod'rate		
	Fri. 5	30.369	73	clear,	S & W mod'rate		
	Sat. 6	30.301	80	clear,	S & W mod'rate		
	Sun. 7	30.160	84	cloudy, clear,	S & W mod'rate		
3rd Qr.	Mon. 8	30.027	85	clear,	N & W light		.15 40th. At 11 P. M. Aurora Borealis, very brilliant.
	Tues. 9	30.015	79	cloudy, clear,	N & W light		
	Wed. 10	30.180	76	clear,	N & W light		
	Thur. 11	29.952	80	clear, rain,	S & W light		
	Fri. 12	29.905	83	clear, cloudy,	N & W light		
	Sat. 13	30.105	88	clear,	E SW mod'rate		
	Sun. 14	30.029	88	clear, cloudy, clear, rain,	S W strong	1.17	
New M.	Mon. 15	30.058	79	clear, cloudy, clear,	N & W strong		14th. Violent gusts from N'd and W'd, with lightning and rain.
	Tues. 16	30.134	76	clear,	N & W mod'rate		
	Wed. 17	30.091	77	cloudy, clear,	S W strong		
	Thur. 18	30.269	76	clear,	N W mod'rate		
	Fri. 19	30.345	85	clear,	N E E mod'rate		
	Sat. 20	30.262	84	clear, cloudy,	W N W mod'rate		
	Sun. 21	30.269	87	clear,	N W E light		
1st Qr.	Mon. 22	30.240	86	clear, cloudy,	N E E light		1.62 25th. 1 P. M. Heavy thunder gust, rain and violent wind from N. W.
	Tues. 23	30.260	86	clear,	N E E light		
	Wed. 24	30.208	91	clear, cloudy,	S S W fresh		
	Thur. 25	30.213	83	cloudy, rain,	N E mod'rate		
	Fri. 26	30.313	79	cloudy, rain,	N E fresh		
	Sat. 27	30.173	83	cloudy, clear,	S W fresh str.		
	Sun. 28	30.098	85	clear,	West fresh		
Full M.	Mon. 29	30.184	81	clear,	SW SSE fresh	.25	
	Tues. 30	29.760	84	cloudy, rain, cloudy,	SWNW strong		
	Wed. 31	30.170	76	clear,	NE clm fresh		